

Super Adelaide City ousts Sydney Olympic ... P3

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SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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WHERE IS SOPER HEADING?

MARSHALL SOPER, Sydney Olympic's "problem-child", will be with a new club next year.

The fiery striker himself publicly declared this late last week.

But the question remains ... which club will secure the explosive Soper's services in the NSL's new format League for 1987?

APIA, Sydney Croatia, South Melbourne and even St George have all shown belated interest in the player, despite repeated denials from most of them.

But I feel that Soper will be seen in 1987

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

wearing either South Melbourne or Sydney Croatia colours.

Sydney Croatia was interested in signing Soper earlier this year, but the striker's reluctance to shift his residence from Newcastle to Sydney did not please the Croatian management.

Olympic's disappointed president, Tom Domanis stated:

"If any club wants Marshall, they had bet-

ter be prepared to pay \$50,000 for him.

"Marshall has cost our club a lot of money to buy him and service his contracts since we've had him".

Soper was sent off last Sunday at the Parramatta Stadium by referee Don Campbell for pushing Adelaide City's striker, Joe Mullen in the face after the latter had clipped him with a late tackle.

Soper has not been selected to fly out to New Zealand with the Australian Socceroos on Thursday for next Saturday's battle against the All Whites in Auckland.

NSW ASPA WINNER



THE winners of the NSW-ASPA awards on Friday night at the APIA club. WAYNE FARNSWORTH on the left took out the Under 21 player of the year award whilst GRAHAM ARNOLD on the right collected the major prize of NSW player of the year. PHOTO COURTESY MODERN STUDIO, 750-7242.



JUBILANT Adelaide City Juventus players throw their arms up in delight as captain Buggy Nyskohous hoists the OASL trophy — symbol of Australian Soccer supremacy.

INSIDE ➔

PAGE 8
PREVIEW OF THE

THE ROTHMANS MEDAL

PAGE 9

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The Editor

THE SOCCER focus on Saturday will be on Mt Smart Stadium in Auckland, where Australia meets New Zealand in the first of two 'friendly' internationals.

For both countries these matches represent an entirely new ball game.

The NZFA was sufficiently concerned over the need to develop their rebuilt team before meeting Australia that they made a sudden dip into international waters. They broke their National League season to visit Fiji in mid-September for two matches.

Whilst their results were satisfactory (4-2 and 2-1) there is no doubt that coach Kevin Fallon is under huge pressure to obtain results against the Socceroos.

Other contenders for his position are breathing down his neck. He has nowhere near the degree of acceptance that Frank Arok has in Australia, even after allowing that Arok's two-year appointment demonstrates some degree of qualification amongst the Australian Soccer Federation hierarchy.

Behind him Arok has the reputation that he built an excellent 1985 Australian World Cup side - one which won through Oceania and a highly-competent Israel before falling to the redoubtable Scots.

This squad did so well that one is left wondering whether a favourable outcome would have been in the offing had it played Scotland in Australia first.

Arok has been set the prime task of securing a place for Australia in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

That of course does not in one whit alter the fact that he must have his eyes glued on both the two year Olympic and well as the four year World Cup cycle.

In part the closeness of the Olympic qualifying games could explain why the Socceroos were so disjointed in the games against Czechoslovakia just over two months ago.

Experiments were made both player-wise and tactically. Mistakes occurred but the selections in the new squad and the further choices made for the China tour are sufficient to indicate that the lessons are being absorbed.

In recent times we have witnessed the emergence of players of the quality of Jeff Oliver, Graham Arnold, Chris Kalantzis, Robbie Dunn and Steve Maxwell.

We cannot delude ourselves that overseas-based stars such as David Mitchell and Jim Patikas will not be greatly missed.

Imagine, too, our status if players such as Craig Johnston, Eddie Krncevic and Tony Dorigo were also available.

However Australia must live within the bounds of the achievable and flights of fancy will be unproductive at this stage in Australia's Soccer development.

Accordingly let us all wish Frank Arok and his squad the very best over the two New Zealand games, as well as a very healthy crowd to support them when they meet their Trans-Tasman opposition at the excellent Parramatta Stadium on Sunday November 2.

Ahead of them will be the China tour, and as a bonus the Young Socceroos will be playing in Auckland as a build up to their own international series.

Finally the Australian Soccer Federation found it necessary to settle on three matches in China. There is no build up in Asia, so hopefully the internationals against New Zealand will fill the breach.

DAKOS EARMARKED FOR FIRST MATCH

SOCCEROO coach Frank Arok has earmarked talented and classy Sydney Olympic defender Tony Dakos for a spot in the first X1 for the match against New Zealand in Auckland on October 25.

BY RAY GATT

Arok revealed that he will be tempted to use Dakos for the first of the two match series against the Kiwis. However, he still re-

mains a little concerned about a persistent knee injury the young defender has been carrying in recent weeks.

"He is still getting some fluid on his knee and that is a shame because I would like to use him from the start in Auckland," Arok said.

The Socceroo coach has been greatly impressed with Dakos's form in recent weeks since he returned from an operation on his injured knee.

"He has really come on in the last few weeks and is showing the form everyone knows he is capable of," Arok said.

Dakos has done remarkably well to recover so quickly from the injury which threatened to stop him playing for the remainder of the year.

Since he came back several weeks ago he has been involved in some tough matches against some tough opposition strikers. Yet, he has finished on top of them all.

Last Sunday in the first leg of the national final against Adelaide City in Adelaide he was a clear points winner over big Socceroo striker Steve Maxwell.

Dakos completely closed down Maxwell,

who was restricted to just one or two half scoring opportunities.

The Australian team has been working hard in camp recently with Arok and his assistant Eddie Thomson put them through some tough training.

Meanwhile in New Zealand controversy has erupted over the eligibility of former English player Greg Brown.

Brown, who has confirmed that he will play in Australia next season with Melita Eagles, has been told that he cannot play for the Kiwis unless he can show that he will be taking out New Zealand citizenship.

In other Kiwi news, the All Whites are cock-a-hoop with their performances against the Fijian national team.

New Zealand won both matches on their short tour.

After the tour and results, their coach Kevin Fallon, who, by the way, is not a popular figure with Australian Soccer writers, said his team would "walk on broken glass for me."

"It was a good from us because we have never beaten the Fijians twice on tours there," Fallon said.

He adopted different tactics during the two

matches, opting for a 4-4-2 system, thus dropping out one defender.

"The system obviously worked," he said. "It bored me watching that style of play."



MELITA'S STRIKING SIGNING

NEW ZEALAND national squad striker Greg Brown has been signed by Melita Eagles under sensational circumstances.

Brown had expected to be part of New Zealand's squad for the current games against Australia but he was suddenly ruled out by the NZFA because he lacked Kiwi citizenship.

Manchester-born Brown was included in the squad, but his position was then reviewed because he was neither a New Zealand citizen nor in the process of becoming one.

All very strange, be-

BY KEITH GILMOUR

cause he is only a couple of months off making the necessary application.

He will be applying to become a Kiwi in February, when he marries his New Zealand-born fiancée Kim Paterson.

However he revealed that he will be playing in the vastly strengthened NSW State League next season with Sydney-

based Melita Eagles.

The Eagles had the local 'Babes' tag this year, but it is clear that they are out to win promotion regardless of any commitment to building their own players.

Melita is not the only club aiming for 1988 NSL status. Blacktown City and Wollongong City are but two more who have already thrown down the gauntlet.

SAD GOODBYE TO JINKY JOE

IT JUST won't be the same next season without Joe "Jinky" Watson turning out in the blue and and white of Sydney City.

BY RAY GATT

Joe, one of the most popular players to have pulled on a boot in Australian Soccer, has decided to part company with the Slickers after 15 seasons of faithful service.

Joe has taken up an

excellent offer to captain-coach Kingsford in the NSW State League second division competition next season.

"It was a tough decision to make, but one which had to be done," Joe said last week.

"Because of all the doubts about whether the club would field a team next season it left me with little or no alternative.

"I had to make a quick decision on my future rather than let things drag on."

Although he admitted it would be a wrench to leave the club after so long, he admitted he

was looking forward to the challenge at Kingsford.

"They are are progressive club with big ideas," he said. "They want to win promotion to the State League first division and eventually to the national league."

Watson, who played 44 times for the Socceroos, will be missed from the national league. He could easily have played at top level for another two years.

Now that he is leaving the national league, one of the best kept secrets can be revealed.

Just two days before Australia's match against Scotland in the first leg World Cup series Joe was involved in a serious car accident just outside of Edinburgh.

He was driving his parent home when the car he was driving collided with another car in

front of him. Joe's car was forced off the road.

Luckily Joe and his parents escaped with some cuts and bruises, but Joe was very sore.

He wasn't his usual

self during the match two days later and had to be replaced at half-time.

"I guess we are lucky to be alive," Watson said about the incident.

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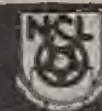
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OLYMPIC AIRWAYS SOCCER LEAGUE ROUND UP

ADELAIDE CITY DOMINATES TO SNARE NATIONAL CROWN

ADELAIDE CITY were brilliant in overcoming a 1-0 first leg deficit and winning the second 3-1 for a 3-2 aggregate on Sunday, under sunny conditions before a season's record 14032 crowd at Parramatta Stadium.

Over the last three years the National Championship title has gone to the Southern Division, with Brunswick Juventus the victors in 1985 and South Melbourne Hellas the year before.

Disciplined Adcity certainly were worthy winners on this occasion, establishing a 3-0 margin before the Sydney favourites cut one back in the 66th minute.

As their coach Zoran Matic quietly pointed out, the broad, even expanses of the beautiful Parramatta pitch suited his players to a tee.

Their play was certainly reminiscent of that glorious Adelaide City side that were such a credit to the club in the earliest years of the National League.

Having said that, it was Olympic who began with many exciting runs, and who also came back with a deal of pressure over the last 20 minutes.

But for style and all round ability on the day there was only one team in it.

It could well have been a different story altogether had Tony Dakos not been suspended, but games of course are won or lost only by the teams of the day.

The Man of the Match surely was the highly skilled Adelaide midfielder, Charlie Villani.

Villani superbly set up Steve Maxwell for his team's second goal and went on to net the third and, to all intents and purposes, put the result beyond Olympic's reach.

Matic placed him deep on the left and he set up many moves from that position.

The pity of the game was, Marshall Soper's smack at Joe Mullen in the 63rd minute. Olympic went a man down, and that is something that they could ill afford.

Gary Phillips was in great form and particularly did a lot in the early stages to mastermind some exciting Olympic runs.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

The plucky fellow badly sprained his wrist ligaments, but he didn't allow that to affect his play.

On the other hand Adelaide City built up some very thoughtful moves from the back, although it took them 14 minutes before they got a good strike at goal through a Joe Mullen header.

Bugsy Nyskohus, a wonder still at 36 years of age, was shown an early yellow card from referee Don Campbell, but it surely had the effect of cooling him down.

Stuart Johnston found a header which eluded the post from a Vince Estavillo pass.

Then in the 22nd minute Mullen appeared to go out of his way to deck Olympic's ballplayer, Estavillo, who, incidentally, did not reach the heights he showed in the St George game on the same ground.

But then disaster struck for Olympic. Andy Stankovic, after being out with a knee injury since the 10th round, took a knock and was replaced by Andy Zervas.

That change took Johnston back into defence, a double blow that Olympic could ill afford against such a nifty side, even though Zervas excelled himself.

In the 30th minute Manny Spanoudakis invitingly held out a leg for Steve Maxwell to go over in the box. The ball might have been just about outside playing distance but referee Campbell quickly awarded a penalty and Bugsy Nyskohus put it away without as much as a murmur.

Vidmar and Raskopoulos collected yellow cards and late in the half the Adelaide City defence, with Neville Flounders looking the goods, was handling Olympic en bloc.

But in the 37th minute Zervas went very close for Olympic. Flounders

flukily deflected the ball away.

Then came Adcity's second. Villani split the defence, Martyn Rogers slipped and the flick went for Maxwell, who beat Meier.

The halftime 2-0 represented a handy 2-1 lead on aggregate to the visitors.

Soon after the resumption it was obvious that Olympic was a bit groggy. Estavillo was up taking a corner on the right and four men were standing back, ostensibly marking just Steve Maxwell away in the centre circle.

And only two minutes later, with Paul Shillabeer making a run up the left, there was no marker. The big fellow had Meier beaten but he missed the post by a metre.

Then in the 60th minute it was Adelaide City again. Mullen made the break to split the defence, Mick Coady was concussed and unable to think clearly, for once Rogers was beaten and Villani showed perfect control and put the ball home.

Three minutes later Mullen made a late tackle on Soper, who retaliated by throwing the ball and then with a blow right in front of referee Campbell and was shown the way home.

As Adcity coach

Zoran Matic pointed out, Olympic seemed to go better after that.

They had all defenders playing out of position as they plugged the gaps caused by the loss of both Stankovic and Coady through injuries, but somehow they kept pressing forward.

For a moment it seemed that the Black-and-Whites had a fourth goal. Mullen crossed and Sergio Melta gracefully went low to place a header past Meier, only to be ruled offside.

Then, with seven minutes to go, a ragged but extremely combative Olympic almost had the one that would have brought extra time and breathing space to alter the result.

Gary Phillips was eight metres out and took a snap shot that looked a winner. However little Bugsy Nyskohus nipped in to attack the ball and whisk it clear.

With two minutes to go Mullen thoroughly tested Meier, who ended up by saving the last shot of the match by grasping it at the second attempt behind his own back.

And so the honours went to Adelaide 3-1 on the day and 3-2 on aggregate. It was not a purist's final, but there certainly was no lack of drama.



ABOVE: Conga line. From right Olympic's Andy Stankovic and Adelaide City's Charlie Villani and Bugsy Nyskohus. BELOW: Adcity's Sergio Melta heads the ball away while team-mate Neville Flounders and Olympic's Marshall Soper watch.



Best for Adelaide City was Villani, but the rest were hard to separate as every manjack of them pulled his weight.

For Olympic Rogers and Phillips were su-

perb, with Johnston and Kalantzis the pick of the rest.

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally, Shillabeer, Nyskohus, Flounders, Tobin, Villani, Santrac, Melta, Vidmar (Willie 78m), Mullen, Maxwell.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Rogers, Coady (Patais 70m), Stankovic (Zervas 26m), Spanoudakis, Phillips, Raskopoulos, Soper, Johnston, Kalantzis, Estavillo.

Referee: D.Campbell. Crowd: 14032.

WHAT THE COACHES SAID:

ZORAN MATIC (Adelaide City)

SUCCESSFUL but extremely matter-of-fact Adelaide City coach ZORAN MATIC: "It is of course very pleasing to come over here to Sydney and then go home as National champions."

"We were well aware that Sydney Olympic play a game which is grounded on the pressure of their big crowd of spectators.

"That however has its limitations and in fact the sort of pressure that goes on the players is not good for the game in Australia.

"So far as Parramatta Stadium is concerned, the excellent surface enabled us to go out and play properly."

"I must say that if National coach Frank Arok is not prepared to take Charlie Villani into his squad after today's display then he never will. I played him deep-

er the left and it gave us more width.

"We haven't struck that sort of pitch in either Adelaide or Melbourne and it was good for us."

Dealing with the Soper send-off incident, Matic said that Olympic lifted their game when he went and they were a better side with ten men.

"The good thing, looking back over the year, was that so many players made a proper contribution to the team.

"It certainly wasn't a case of our National team players Sergio Melta and Steve Maxwell giving any more than the others.

"But looking back means nothing in football — the only thing is to look ahead," he added.

MANFRED SCHAEFER (Sydney Olympic)

AFTER his last game in command of Olympic (unless things suddenly change) Manfred Schaefer can look back with pride on the two Northern Di-

vision grand finals (1984 and 1986) and two NSL Cups (1983 and 1985) that have come his way.

On Sunday the Australian Championship grand final eluded him.

Said Manfred: "It was disappointing, but not that disappointing.

"I think the club should be proud of the team and I hope that nothing occurs to rip the players apart.

"I was proud of the way they came back over the last 20 minutes. At that stage Adelaide City were gone if we could have only finished off.

"When Andy Stankovic went off the game changed and we lost Stuart (Johnston) at the front. I had no choice but to play Andy with Tony Dakos out.

"I give a lot of credit to Steve Maxwell for the way he takes players out of the game."

Regarding Marshall Soper's dismissal, Schaefer was quite reflective. "It was a silly thing to do — to retaliate. I am sure that what happened was not fair to the other players."

Schaefer pointed out

that Mick Coady was concussed and could not see properly to stop the action that led to the third goal from Charlie Villani.

"At the same time our defence did not play well. We did much bet-

ter when we changed to man for man marking.

"Coady hasn't trained for four weeks and we lost Tony Dakos through suspension.

"In the long run we ran out of players," he concluded.

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THE 1974 SOCCEROOS — GOD BLESS 'EM!

WHEN you see a 9-0 scoreline to the 1974 Socceroos over the Media it is one thing.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

But then read the scorers and it is another!

Branko Buljevic (3), Atti Abonyi (2), Johnny Warren, Col Curran, Max Tolson and Jimmy Rooney — they are magic names that conjure up priceless memories.

Fair enough it is to record the scorers, but great moments in football are not made by scorers alone.

First there's goalkeeper Jim Milajevic — these days he calls himself Jim Mills.

Then to run through the rest of the players — Doug Utjesenovic, Jimmy Mackay, Manfred Schaefer, Ray Baartz, Adrian Alston, Allan Maher, Ernie Campbell, Ray Richards and John Watkiss.

Coach Rale Rasic had every right to be a proud man, and in any case, players like that can run themselves on the day.

The Media boys did their best, thanks to those part-time journo's Terry Greedy and Eddie Thomson.

But, in the spirit of

the enjoyment of the day, let's run through the players who were being honoured, and for old time's sake and should 'auld acquaintance be forgot' let's leave it at that.

JIM MILLS (Milajevic): Switching play with strong throws — pulling them out of the air. Great stuff Jim!

DOUG UTJESENOVIC: Moving nicely up the right — a treat to see him teeing up with the sole of the boot before the swinging cross comes right to the spot.

JIMMY MACKAY: Seemed to be as mobile as ever — in fact, more so! A top class player.

MANFRED

SCHAEFER: Once he used to cruise around — now he is a battleship, (and quite prepared to sink the opposition).

COL CURRAN: Just as ready to go forward as he was in his heyday. Although the pace has slowed the passes are crisp and the crosses well judged. Verdict — Col is no "Bunny".

JOHNNY WARREN: Still tiptoes over the tulips, perhaps with a typical drag of the foot, but certainly with a nose to sniff out a low, stinging shot. A great competitor.

BRANKO BULJEVIC: That left foot and typically lumbering body movement are there and in addition he can still poke the goals in. Branko didn't look as if he had been off the park for more than a week or two.

JIMMY ROONEY: Not only still the workhorse par excellence — also had no trouble in nutmegging the Media as well.

RAY BAARTZ: As lean as a whipcord and ready to come through on the break.

ATTI ABONYI: Those superb skills remain as priceless as ever.

ADRIAN ALSTON: Still the master, although we didn't see too many drives just under — or just over — the crossbar.

ALLAN MAHER: Waited till second half to replace Jim Milajevic, when there wasn't too much business to be done! "Spider"

still knows how to weave a web of intrigue.

MAX TOLSON: These days Max seems to be more the neat footwork man than the man who was famous as "The Enforcer".

ERNIE CAMPBELL: Great touches! Just as ever, Ernie is prepared to slip into an offside position, find the net and claim a goal!

RAY RICHARDS: That super accurate pass has lost a bit of its weight — even if Ray hasn't! And we didn't get to see that monstrous throw ...

JOHN WATKISS: Did his share as a second half replacement — but Oh! for those days of Yesteryear.



HAT-TRICK man BRANKO BULJEVIC leads ALEX PATON of 2UE a merry dance.

The organisers would like to thank the sponsors, ATTACK sports, MITRE Sports, ANSETT Airlines and AMBASSADOR Trophies, for their support.

THE SICK AND SORRY ...

BY ONE OF THEM

THERE was another team on the Parramatta Stadium between 12.45 and 2.30. Just in case you didn't notice it was the Australian Soccer Media who were the human sacrifices.

Below we produce the sorry tale of injuries that beset the 15 madmen that dared to take on perhaps Australia's greatest team.

TERRY GREEDY: Twisted ankle after making a long run in second half when he switched from goals to a field player. Sorely dented his pride when Buljevic put that free kick past him. Reportedly wants to play in the Golden Olides tournament.

EDDIE THOMSON: Badly bruised arm with thanks to Adrian Alston and a very sore throat after the half-time rollicking he gave to the Media guys.

RAY GATT: Sore ankles, sore eyes from closing them in prayer so much and a sore backside from sitting on the bench.

FRANK COLETTA: The groin. Cut knee after fouling Atti Abonyi.

Sore ears from the abuse from his little sister for giving away a penalty and also a chipped bone in his foot which he took into the game — silly boy!

PETER WILKINS: Possible broken ankle, severe swelling and bruising — and this all happened before the game as he was practising for it. He could not get out of the dressing room.

ANDREW PASCHALIDIS: Sore knees after begging Jimmy Rooney not to hit the penalty too hard and very sore back from picking the ball out of the back of the net so many times.

ALEX PATON: Torn groin — those long Saturday nights.

TITO POZO: Another ankle injury victim. Where were you Charlie Jurisic before the game to strap these guys.

JOHN STEAD: Another sore ear victim after copping most of the blast from Thommo at half-time and a severe attack of "what am I doing here?"

MIKE COCKERILL: Severely twisted neck from repeatedly watching Abonyi, Buljevic, Warren and Alston go past him.

MIKE MIKOLAJCZYK: Sore feet from walking home from Parramatta Stadium after his wife took the car and left him there.

DOMINIC GALATI: White line fever from running the wings all day like a madman.

ALISTAIR RUSSELL: Broken heart after his performance led to his dad (Peter) disowning him.

TED SIMMONS: A cold — contracted from the winds produced by Branko Buljevic as he continually went past him and everyone else in sight.



RIVAL captains JOHNNY WARREN (left) and FRANK COLETTA (right) lead the teams out for the big match.

A GREEN AND GOLD ONE-EYED

JOHNNY WARREN began the rout when he latched onto a pass from Branko Buljevic to leave Media goalie Terry Greedy in the lurch.

A second was on the cards when Atti Abonyi robbed Mike Cockerill. He cheekily decided on

a lob, only to just breast the crossbar as well.

We saw some of that glorious old understanding from Utjesenovic and Alston, but Abonyi went wide.

Jimmy Rooney went gliding on his way, with 'Big Branko' Buljevic shielding and dribbling away with that great left foot.

LOOK AT THE GAME

Buljevic registered three in a row, the second from a neat tap from a Curran pass and the hat-trick from a burst through the middle.

An unhurried Alston cross from the left gave

Curran his chance to tap the ball in, and soon after Maxie Tolson did the same.

The scoring continued with two from Abonyi and Rooney finished off with a natty soft penalty that squeezed inside the post.



THE two teams and officials come together for a momentous occasion and a momentous photo. From left to right, back row: Terry Greedy, Mike Mikolaczkyk, Mike Cockerill, Eddie Thomson, Doug Rennie, Peter Rampley, Tim Davies, Barrie Wilkinson, Jim Scane, Rale Rasic, Mike Milajevic, Tom Grimson, Max Tolson, Dr Brian Corrigan, Jimmy Mackay, Ernie Campbell, Johnny Watkiss, Branko Buljevic, Manfred Schaefer, Allan Maher.

Front Row, left to right: Alex Paton, Alistair Russell, Andy Paschalidis, John Stead, Les Murray, Neil Jameson, Tito Pozo, Ted Simmons, Dominic Galati, Ray Gatt, Frank Coletta, Adrian Alston, Johnny Warren, Atti Abonyi, Jimmy Rooney, Ray Baartz, Col Curran and Doug Utjesenovic.

If any players and/or supporters wish to purchase any team, action or general photos — contact official photographer MICHAEL SARA on 85 6260 or 11 Cabham Avenue, West Ryde 2114.

THE GLOVES ARE OFF WITH TERRY GREEDY



THE series against Czechoslovakia was the beginning of a new programme for the national team which will hopefully finish with a place in the 1990 World Cup Finals.

The Czech series highlighted the problem areas that have been created by the retirement of several senior players.

The upcoming games against the New Zealand National team will again provide an insight into the areas that have to be developed if the Socceroos are to have any chance of making the Italian finals.

With the retirement of David Ratcliffe and the unavailability of John Kosmina, another two players will be given a chance to stake their claims for the vacancies.

Ratcliffe and Kosmina have been the linchpins for many Socceroo successes over the last few years and will not be easily replaced.

The squad to travel to New Zealand contains many excellent young

players who have earned their call-up to the National team with consistently high standard performances in the league.

It is imperative that young players be given a chance to establish themselves at this stage so that, by the time the important qualifying games for the World Cup come around, they will have gained the necessary experience of playing at international level.

They also must have a thorough understanding between each other that will provide the platform for a successful team for years to come.

The exclusion of Tommy McCulloch came as a surprise as his form since joining Sydney City has been excellent.

With an extended run



PARRAMATTA STADIUM action — Marshall Soper is the Aussie attacker.

in the Socceroo midfield, which appears to be the main problem area, I'm sure he will show his undoubted ability and become a regular member of the first team.

Graham Arnold is a ready made replacement for Kossie up front but replacing 'Albert' Ratcliffe in the centre of defence is going to be a difficult task.

Without doubt several

players who were selected against Czechoslovakia but failed to flatter will be on their last chance. If they are unable to produce improved games against New Zealand then others will be called into the squad.

While the squad to travel to New Zealand and China is an excellent one that will improve as they play more games together, it is

hard to fathom why there wasn't a place for Angie Postecoglou.

Sure, his games against the Czechs were poor but his record over the past season is outstanding and he is surely a great prospect for the future.

Making the transition from the youth team to the senior team would be a difficult task on its own, but there was also the added pressure he

received from the media coverage over his selection.

To be discarded after such a brief period will do nothing to develop the confidence that was lacking in his senior appearances.

Postecoglou would benefit greatly from being part of a touring squad, where he can become accustomed to the increased pressure and demands placed on players.

His confidence would improve and it would follow that his performances on the field would contribute more to the team effort.

No doubt at the conclusion of the China tour the 'Old Fox' Frank 'Mad Dog' Arok will be able to settle on a squad that will form the basis of the National team for the Olympics and the World Cup qualification games.

The burning question at the moment seems to be who will take over the captaincy.

The coming tour should provide the opportunity to see how prospective candidates handle the job.

Such an important position should not and no doubt will not be filled without considerable thought from the coaching staff.

○ ○ ○

Many people who watched the replay of the Saints/Sydney Olympic game on SBS-TV but do not attend National Soccer League games have asked me why it is



This week **TERRY GREEDY** analyses the upcoming Australia — New Zealand internationals and laments over crowd invasions.

that a crowd of 30,000 can watch a game of Rugby League at Parramatta Stadium without there being a pitch invasion but when Soccer plays at the same venue with a crowd of 10,000 we have the problem of spectators running on to the field and the referee has to halt the game.

I am at a loss to explain why there is such a problem with Soccer crowds.

At St George stadium it became necessary to have a high fence erected around the perimeter of the playing area.

Clubs should be made responsible for deterring people from running on to the playing area.

The NSL should impose hefty fines on these clubs who do not provide adequate security to stop this practice.

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK



DAVID RATCLIFFE — replacement needed.



JOHNNY WARREN
REVIEWS WORLD
INDOOR AND
'ARGENTINA CUP'
IN CANBERRA

BRAZIL INDOOR TO TOUR HERE

THE Brazilian national team will play in Australia in 1987. Indoor (or Saloon) football variety that is. The tour of the current world champions is one of the many positive benefits to be derived from the current visit to Australia of FIFUSA (the world indoor body) president Juanario D'Alessio and Brazilian President Dr Alvarez.

D'Alessio and Alvarez are in Australia as the guests of the Australian Indoor Soccer Federation and the Australian Federation Government to inspect sites for the 1988 World championships to be held in Australia.

During their visit they will also finalise the thousands of details associated with organis-

ing the World Finals.

They also meet with the Minister for Sport, Tourism and Recreation John Brown and the Sports Commission, both of whom are heavily backing the World finals which are part and parcel of Australia's Bicentennial celebrations.

Dr Alvarez, the Brazilian president who controls the 12 million

indoor players in Brazil, said his national side would be delighted to come to Australia next year.

"The tour would introduce world class indoor Soccer to the sporting public of Australia and would also serve as ideal preparation for the Australian team for the World Championship", he said.

Alvarez also said it was a little known fact that indoor Soccer in Brazil boasted a staggering 12 million registered players.

Both Alvarez and D'Alessio have been delighted with the splendid indoor facilities in Australia, having visited the Perth Entertainment Centre, the State Sports Centre at Homebush, the Sydney, Perth and Melbourne Entertainment Centres, the Chandler complex in Brisbane and the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

According to D'Alessio, FIFUSA is pleased that the World Finals will be staged for the first time in an English speaking nation — the previous world titles, both won by Brazil incidentally, having been staged in Brazil and Spain.

D'Alessio and Alvarez will be special guests of Sports Minister John Brown and Prime Minister Bob Hawke at a special VIP luncheon at Parliament House this afternoon before attending a cocktail party at the Brazilian Embassy later this evening.

During their visit the Brazilian guests were able to finalise details of the Australian team's visit to Brazil later next month.

CRINO EXPECTED GUEST FOR 'ARGENTINA CUP'

ORGANISERS of the highly successful post-season Argentina Cup in Canberra are hopeful of having Socceroo star Oscar Crino make a guest appearance for Argentina.

The participation of Crino, arguably Australia's finest player, would be a tremendous attraction for the Argentina Cup, to be played in Canberra on Saturday November 1 and Sunday November 2.

Crino would join former star Victor Fernandez, Luis Salgado, Oscar Langone, George and Gus Cerro, Tony Lemezina and Julio Mallagan in the Argentina team.

Six teams will participate in this year's Cup, viz Canberra City Olympians, Juventus, Croatia Deakin, Narrabundah, Uruguay of Melbourne and an Argentinian selection.

The Argentinina Cup has developed into a first class post-season event in Canberra and this year will be no exception.

Apart from the games themselves there will be a Welcoming Ball at the Croatia Deakin Soccer

Club on Saturday evening and a Presentation Dinner at the same club on the Sunday evening.

The draw for the Cup which will be played at Jamison Oval on the Saturday and Deakin Oval on the Sunday is:

Saturday:

Argentina v
Narrabundah 1pm
Juventus v Uruguay of
Melbourne 3pm
Canberra City
Olympians v Croatia
Deakin 5pm

Sunday:

Semi finals and final at 3 and 5pm

Past winners of the Argentina Cup (not staged in 1982 and 1985) have been:

1978 Croatia Deakin
1979 Inter Monaro
1980 Croatia Deakin
1981 Inter Monaro
1983 Croatia Deakin
1984 Croatia Deakin

Further enquiries on the Argentina Cup should be directed to organisers Oscar Geuna 412 915 or Luis Salgado 58 8789.

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CHIT CHAT - Behind the scene at your club



WILLIE McINALLY — flies high to save last weekend in the First leg against Sydney Olympic. McInally was in great form during the match and has been an integral part of Adelaide City's performances over the last few years and especially in their run to the big matches this year.

A KICK LIKE A MULE!

ONE of the most powerful strikers to come to Australia not long after the Federation took control of local Soccer was an Austrian colleague of Leo Baumgartner named **HERBERT NINAUS**.

Playing with Prague and then Hakoah clubs, his tremendous shot kept him ahead of the most powerful forwards of the day.

Left in his wake as he potted in the goals were Bruce Morrow (Auburn and APIA), Leo Baumgartner (Canterbury), Billy Hume (Gladesville), Walter Tamandl (Prague), Les Schauman and Johnny Galambos (Budapest) and John Watkiss (Canterbury).

In one year with Hakoah he scored as many goals as the rest of the squad put together.

Many famous names of the late fifties and the sixties lined up with the unstoppable Herbert.

They included Karl Jaros, Trevor Edwards, Peter Fuzes, Doug Holden, Alan Marnoch, Andy Saghi, Matt Woods, Duncan Walsh, Heinz Wenzl, Jock Aird, Gerry Chaldi and Bobby Kearns.

Later on Herbert Ninaus had a hand with coaching Canterbury in the NSW State League.

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NINAUS, with eye on the ball, gets past APIA-Leichhardt goalkeeper Audato Iglesias. On hand in the dark shirt is "Big Jim" Sambrook, who came through from Christchurch and Gladesville Ravens to become a star APIA defender.



Who's that man on the right? Ernie Campbell of course. The one-time Soccerroo is caught in a pic with Trasandinos team-mate Steve McDonald. Ernie was one of the combatants in Sunday's 1974 Soccerroos v Aust. Soccer Media match.

OLYMPIA-WPL's Pepsi Youth League team won the Tasmanian reserve title when it beat Launceston Juventus 4-2 at Prospect.

Paul Tsangaris headed Con Tsiakis's cross into the net on the half-hour to give Olympia the lead and the title really seemed to be in Olympia's grasp when Juventus had Leighton Hodge sent off five minutes before the interval.

Miotto equalized seconds after Hodge's dismissal and the teams went in at the break locked together at 1-1.

Cook put Juventus ahead within a minute of the restart, only to see Ken Morton squeeze a shot under the goalkeeper in the 65th minute to make it 2-2.

A brilliant goal by Jim Patiniotis from 25 metres in the 71st minute set Olympia on the way to victory and Paul Tsangaris sealed the issue three minutes later when he scored his second goal of the match with a superb volley.

Olympia's senior side lost 0-2 to Launceston Juventus in the penultimate round of the Bohemian Restaurant Invitation Cup series.

It was Olympia's third outing in the competition and it had drawn once and lost twice.

Juventus, inspired by sweeper Peter Saville (ex-Leeds United), scored both goals in the second half through McFarlane and Davidson.

COME Monday the 27th of October an AMERICAN selection will play Portugal in a benefit match at Gar-side Park at 8pm in aid of homes for the elderly.

Playing for the Americas are such notables — Vicente Estavillo, Osvaldo El All, Pedro Rico, Gerry Gomez, Nello Borges, Fernando Mosquera, Carlos Rossano and Alvaro Perdomo.

GREAT day and promotion that it was, there were still a few rumblings from some members of the 1974 Soccerroos who played against a media select team on Sunday at Parramatta Stadium.

The gentlemen that they are, they did not want too much of a fuss made about it, but did express disappointment that the Australian Soccer Federation did not take the opportunity to present them with the special plaques for those who have represented Australia.

You know those plaques? The ones Sir Arthur George promised to all Soccerroo representatives.

Yes, Sir Arthur made a big speech about how the players would be honoured with gold, silver and bronze plaques depending on how many matches they had played for Australia.

So far, only one has been presented — to Joe Watson, who richly deserved his honour. The 1974 Soccerroos don't deny Watson his award because they say he thoroughly earned it.

But, they are wondering when, if ever, they'll get their plaques.

MAMMOTH CROWD AT CHAMPIONS FINALS

AMATEUR officials estimated the crowd at between 4,000 and 5,000 at the NSW Champion of Champions finals at Valentine Park, Parklea.

Parking space was so much at a premium that cars were parked right along Meurants Lane and then down Old Windsor Rd.

Top marks must go to the Yoogall under 17 team from Griffith, who downed Bankstown Sports 7-1.

Rarely if ever has a country side won through in the final, and they did it by such a huge margin.

In under 16 Sylvania Heights edged out North Rocks 4-2 on penalties after the teams had been locked at 1-1.

The full results were:

U9: Enfield Rovers 2, Wakehurst 0.

U10: Lansvale Utd 4, Revesby Lions 1.

U11: Camden 3, Smithfield Hotspurs 2.

U12: APIA 3, Chullora 1.

U13: Greystanes 9, Revesby Lions 1.

U14: Bass Hill 2, APIA 1.

U15: Lake Heights 2, Brookvale 0.

U16: Sylvania Heights 1g 4pen, North Rocks 1g2p.

U17: Yoogall 7, Bankstown Sports 1.

U18: West Pennant Hills 2, Penrith RSL 1.

U21: Blakehurst Sports 1, Panania RSL 0.

All age: Epping YMCA 1, Kissing Point 0.

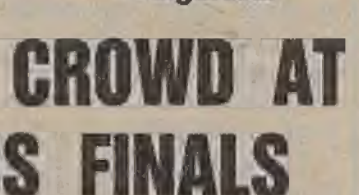
THE Wollongong Soccer Jig-saw is just as complicated as ever for the new season.

In 1987 there will be Wollongong City and Wollongong Macedonia in the new-look State League with Fairy Meadow in Second Division.

This suggests the Wolves and Macedonia will be at home on alternate Sundays — Wolves at Wollongong Showground and Macedonia at Berkeley Sportsground.

Fairy Meadow's best plan would seem to play their

Little 'Jinky' Joe Watson (above) in action for Sydney City during one his last games in the NSL. He is now player-coach of NSW Second Division club — Kingford.



home games on Saturday but they share Memorial Park with Illawarra club Corrimall and this might not work out.

It would mean a return to the Wollongong Police Boys' Oval for Fairy Meadow, the ground they last used when they won their way out of Second Division.

The ISA will play their usual match of the day promotions on Sunday next season so there is little chance of all Soccer followers in the area being able to get along to just one feature match any weekend.

BANKSTOWN ASSOCIATION 1987 YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

19th and 26th of October
U/13's 9 a.m. U/14's 11 a.m.
U/15's 1 p.m. U/16's 3 p.m.

at **Stuart Reserve**,
Stuart Street, Padstow

Coaches and Managers also required.
For further details contact

Eric Smith **727 7937**

OR

Jenny Russell **771 4416**

SYDNEY TORNADO STRIKES MACKAY

SYDNEY TORNADOES v MACKAY MONARCHS 6-3

Saturday October 11 at Bankstown City YMCA

IT is hard to believe that Mackay Monarchs still have not won a game. It can only be a matter of time.

The deciding factor in this game was the brilliance of Steven Knight and the clinical finishing of Glen Jeffery from the Tornados.

The game began at a fast and furious pace with the Monarchs charging the Tornados every time they had the ball.

The Monarchs' two tactics were to play the ball wide down the line or chip it over the top to the front man.

Most of the teams playing against them are aware of their tactics and they need to come up with something new.

Tornados opened the scoring when a long ball to Glen Jeffery enabled him to turn his man and slam it home.

Soon after John Lembryk made a long break down the wing and steered the ball past the diving keeper. Tornados 2, Monarchs 0.

At this stage it looked rather glum for the Monarchs but Jock Harris gave them a glimmer of hope when he scored to make it 2-1.

Steve Knight could have made it a whitewash in the first half but just could not beat the post. He must have hit it at least five times.

The first half finished 2-1 and Mackay Monarchs at this stage were still in the match.

The second half saw Tornados begin with a goal from Scott Gilligan when his shot was saved but trickled over the line. David Olive, the best player for Monarchs, then produced a brilliant drive from half way to make it 3-2.

As the game went on however, the Monarchs began to fire but three more goals from the Tornados sealed the win. Towards the end

Alan McKerihan scored the Monarchs' third goal, to make it 6-3.

Goalscorers: **TORNADOES** Jeffery 3, Knight 1, Lembryk 1, Gilligan 1. **MONARCHS** Olive 1, Harris 1, McKerihan 1. Points: Knight 3, Jeffery 2, Olive 1.

— SCOTT GILLIGAN



DAWN GILLIGAN ... keen official.

Friday, 24th October:

Lotto All Stars v Sydney Tornados

Saturday, 25th October:

Enduro Spartans v Ansett Stars
Lotto All Stars v Ansett Stars
Mackay Monarchs v Melbourne Eliminators
Canberra City v Buffalo Mets

Sunday, 26th October:

Sydney Tornados v Ansett Stars
Brisbane Natra v Melbourne Eliminators
Bombers v Buffalo Mets

SYDNEY TORNADOES



BACK: L to R: Craig Carlisle, Gill Tour, Rob Stuart, Elcan Osmar, Erkin Osmar, Ben (manager).
FRONT: Craig Bass, Glen Jeffery, George Psaroudis, Scott Gilligan, Steve Knight, John Lembryk.

CANBERRA AMPOL ROCKETS v MELBOURNE ELIMINATORS 5-5

Sunday October 12 in Melbourne

THE Ampol Rockets, after being down 1-0 after only 30 seconds, fought back with some solid defence from Kyrgios and Dukic to stun their opposition.

The Rockets' confidence just kept on growing and it was only a matter of time before Lemezina put them ahead with two superb goals followed by another brilliant goal by Cerro. This saw the Rockets go into the break with a 3-1 lead.

Early in the second half the Rockets continually pressured the Eliminators and were rewarded with another superbly taken goal by Lemezina. With a 4-1 lead the Rockets looked certain of victory.

However keeper Burum, playing his first whole game, received an extremely hard blow 'where it hurts' and seemed a bit shaky for a few minutes. This enabled the Eliminators to get right back into the

game with four soft goals in less than five minutes. They had the Rockets trailing 5-4 with two minutes to go but always looking dangerous in spite of the deficit.

Then it came - a super move which involved the whole team. Kyrgios passed to Maricic and then to Cerro and then Lemezina rounded two players and headed the ball past the Eliminators' keeper to get the equaliser for the Rockets.

The Rockets continued to pressure their opponents with twenty seconds to go. Lemezina and Cerro combined yet again in an amazing display of skill which could have wrapped up the game but Cerro's shot could only find the cross-bar.

POINTS FOR ROCKETS: Lemezina 9 (3 goals), Dukic 8 (1), Cerro 8 (1), Kyrgios 8, Burum 8, Maricic 8. **MAN OF THE MATCH:** Tony Lemezina.

— GEORGE KYRGIOS

CANBERRA AMPOL ROCKETS v BUFFALO METS 16-6

Melbourne on Saturday night October 11

THIS game clearly showed what the Canberra Ampol Rockets can achieve when the brilliant individual skills are combined in a team effort.

The Ampol Rockets exploded from the opening whistle and raced away to a 4-1 lead after only eight minutes. They went into the break leading 7-3.

The second half entirely belonged to the Rockets. Tony Lemezina and Gus Cerro shared eight goals between them and had tremendous games.

The other goal scorers — Dukic 3, Kyrgios 2, Maricic 2 and Lustica 1 — were always in command of their openings.

Keepers Denis Maricic and Vlaho Burum had excellent communication with their team mates, which kept the defence extremely solid.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Emile Maricic. **PLAYER RATINGS FOR ROCKETS:** D. Maricic 8, E. Maricic 9 (2 goals), G. Kyrgios 8 (2), T. Lemezina 9 (4), G. Cerro 9 (4), S. Dukic 7

(3), B. Lustica 7 (1).
— GEORGE KYRGIOS



Sydney Tornados v Enduro Spartans. Players l to r: Scott Gilligan, Steve Knight, Rob Stuart, Craig Carlisle, John Lembryk (all Tornados) outnumber Nello Borges (Enduro).



Nello Borges (Enduro), Luis De Melo, with Steve Knight (Tornados) coming in.



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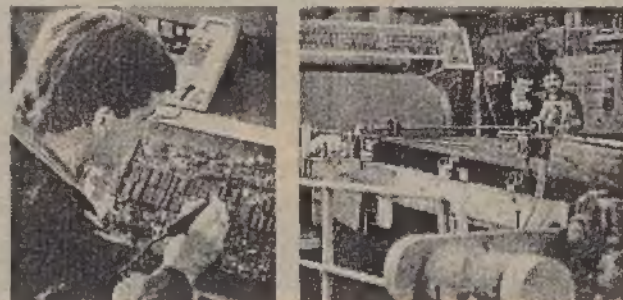
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The Rothmans Medal

TONIGHT, at Melbourne's Southern Cross Hotel, the winner of the Rothmans National Medal will be announced. The voting carried out by referees controlling NSL matches throughout the year has been a well guarded secret. One of the conditions of the Rothmans Medal Award is that the recipient must not have been sent off the field in any NSL match during this season. I take this opportunity to suggest likely worthy winners for tonight's Medal.

ERNIE TAPAI, Victoria's young energetic midfielder, is a possible candidate for the Medal tonight.

Ernie's magnificent work for Footscray went a long way to lifting his club's colours this year in the NSL.

This young lad's aggressive perseverance has also alerted National coach Frank Arok to draft him into the Australian squad.

GRAHAM ARNOLD, the winner last Friday of the ASPA-NSW Award is a definite candidate.

Arnold has excelled this year for his club Sydney Croatia with solid performances in attack as well as in the midfield.

Arnold was also top-



goalscorer and will now takeover from John Kosmina as Australia's leading international striker.

ARNO BERTOGNA, APIA's tough-tackling centre-back, together with his captain, Terry Butler, have virtually carried their team all year.

Time after time, big Arno's herculean efforts in defence have brought points for his club.

Without a doubt, Arno Bertogna is APIA's spine.

Bertogna must surely, sooner or later (preferably sooner), be brought into the Australian squad to automatically replace the now retired David Ratcliffe.

He is NOT a static-defender.

Bertogna is intelligent, rock-stable and has the ability to break out of the back-four and

push the attack for his team.

ATTI CARBONE, Inter-Monaro's high work-rate midfielder is another likely candidate.

Since transferring from Sydney club Marconi, Carbone's game has blossomed.

When he left Marconi, Atti was a lightweight linkman.

This season, he has become physically stron-



Atti Carbone, Inter Monaro.

ger to aid his tremendous tenacity.

ANTHONY FRANKEN, Canberra City Olympians' magnificent stylish goalkeeper, is yet another definite candidate for the golden medal.

Franken's superb acrobatic displays for his club this season, have earned many NSL points for his team.

It was mainly Franken's efforts between the posts that lifted Canberra into the NSL's Nanda Soccer Cup semis recently.

Franken despite his youthful years has already been drafted into the Australian Squad which leaves for New Zealand next Thursday.

Next season will see young Anthony don the gloves for his new club, Sydney Croatia.

Others who could be well within the running are Brunswick Juventus'

PAUL WADE, Marconi's ROBBIE WHEATLEY and Adelaide City's evergreen wonder BUGSY NYSKOHUS.

By 9.30pm tonight, we will know the winner.

The Rothmans Gold Medal is almost solid gold and is valued at well over \$6,000.

Tonight's Gold Medal Award will be the second one awarded.

Last year's inaugural Medal was won by Sydney Croatia's attacking-midfielder international,



Robbie Wheatley.

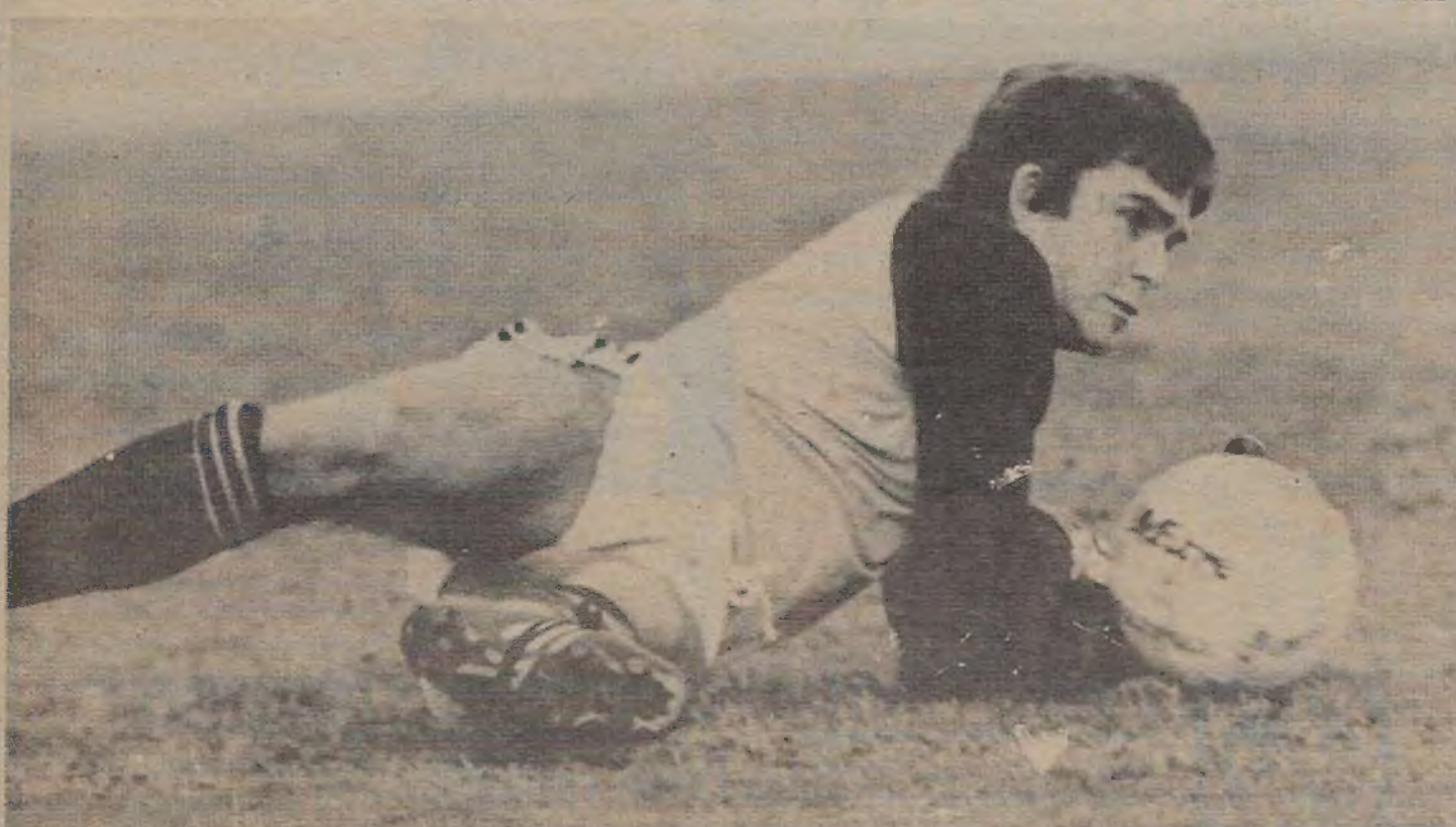
Jimmy Patikas who is Greece with Athenian currently playing in club, A.E.K.



(Left) — Brunswick's Paul Wade challenges for the ball as he is for the medal and at (right) Patikas carries off the spoils in 1985.



GRAHAM ARNOLD of Sydney Croatia playing for Australia.



ACE goalkepr ANTHONY FRANKEN makes a save for Australia. He may get his hands on the National Rothmans Medal.



FLASHBACK 1985: Soccer writers (from left), David Jack, Frank Coletta, John Economos and Michael Mystakidis congratulate Jimmy Patikas (middle) on his Rothmans Medal win.

National Team Appointments

Applications are now being invited for Australian Womens Soccer Association National Team Appointments.

1 YOUTH TEAM — Assistant Coach, Manager and Physio.
Proposed tour to USA — 9-26 April 1987.
Approximate cost \$1500.

2 SENIOR TEAM — Assistant coach, Manager and Physio.
AIS Camp — Canberra 15-22 March 1987. Proposed international tournament — Sydney 25-28 March.
Approximate cost \$500.
Costs subject to reduction.

All applications and inquiries to Heather Reid, Executive Director AWSA, A.C.T. Sports House, Hackett A.C.T. 2602.

062 48 5834

CLOSING DATE 14th NOVEMBER 1986.

The NSW-ASPA Awards

ARNOLD WINS ASPA AWARD

GRAHAM ARNOLD, Sydney Croatia's ace international striker, won the Australian Soccer Press Association (NSW Division) "Player Of The Year Award" last Friday night.

This is the second year running that Sydney Croatia has supplied the winner.

Last year's ASPA-NSW Player Of The Year Award went to Jimmy Patikas, who now is playing professionally in Greece.

At a sumptuous din-

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ner held in Sydney at the APIA Soccer Club, which was magnificently set up by the club's restaurant manager, Mr Frank Moio, Graham took out the prestigious ASPA trophy as well as

a magnificent domestic air-conditioning unit that was sponsored by Lemair (Australia) Pty Ltd.

The ASPA-NSW State League Under 21 Award went Melita Eagles' fine young striker, Wayne Farnsworth.

For his efforts Wayne received the ASPA perpetual trophy, plus

another magnificent trophy to keep, as well as a portable stereo radio-cassette, again sponsored by Lemair (Australia) Pty Ltd.

State Sales Manager for Lemair, Mr Harry



Graham Arnold with his coach from Sydney Croatia, Vederan Rozic.



NSW Soccer Federation president Mr John Constantine congratulates Melita Eagles' Wayne Farnsworth.

Marr, jointly made the presentation to Graham Arnold with NSW State Director of Coaching, Mr Alan Vest. He said:

"I have always loved Soccer and I feel proud that my Company Lemair was chosen to sponsor these Annual Awards.

"I feel that both winners were excellent choices."

Canberra City Olympians' dynamic young

goalkeeper, Anthony Franken came second, with Sydney City's flank-striker, Frank Farina third and Sydney Olympic's South American midfielder Vicente Estavillo in fourth place.

ASPA-NSW branch would like to take the opportunity, to publicly thank Mr Harry Marr and Lemair (Australia) Pty Ltd for their full support of the ASPA Awards they have given.



NSW Soccer Press Player of the Year Wayne Farnsworth (U21) and Graham Arnold. Also pictured are editor Keith Gilmour and ASW personalities David Jack, Ray Gatt and John Economos.



Graham Arnold with Alan Vest and Lemair (Australia) Pty Ltd, Sales Manager, Mr Harry Marr.



1986 AWARD winner Graham Arnold pictured with Soccer Press Association members (at back) Ray Gatt, Keith Gilmour, Mario Etchard, Mike Hill, David Jack, Lino Vella (front), Theo Sekhas, John Economos, Sylvia Teordanis, Les Banyay, Andy Paschalldie.

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THE REAL ALTERNATIVE

POPONDETTA PARK'S BRIGHT NEW STAND

FEW Soccer clubs in NSW can have such an imposing stand and amenities block as Mount Druitt Town and Lethbridge Rangers Soccer Clubs now have at Popondetta Park, Mt Druitt.

— BY GEORGE CHURCHWARD —

Through a joint effort, and the financial assistance of Blacktown City Council, this tribute to former Lethbridge enthusiast Andy McLean was opened officially on Saturday October 11 by the Mayor of Blacktown, Ald. Leo Kelly.

Andy McLean coached with Lethbridge Rangers Soccer Club from 1970, and was a member of the Steering Committee who worked so hard to get the stand built.

He died in 1983, and the new 500 seat capacity stand is a fitting tribute to his work for both clubs.

A feature of the complex is the dressing room accommodation. There is plenty of room for the players, and there is also a referees room, committee room and a canteen.

Popondetta Park is centrally located at Mt Druitt, and contains 20 hectares which is current used by many sporting clubs.

Soccer identities at the opening included well known coaches Denes, Adrigan and Vic Dalglish, and Albert Lobley, secretary of the Blacktown District Soccer Football Association.

Andy McLean was born in Scotland in 1933 and migrated to Australia in 1966, living originally in the East Hills area of Sydney and later moving to Mt Druitt in 1969.

Andy was a Soccer devotee, having been actively involved in the sport in Glasgow. He joined the Lethbridge Rangers Soccer Club in 1970, coaching the Under 11 Team.

During that year all managers and coaches associated with the club formed a committee known as the Lethbridge Rangers Steering Committee and he was also a member of the Popondetta Park management committee.

Andy's talent also extended to administration, where he was one of the driving forces in establishing a senior club to represent Mount Druitt in State League.

This team was known as "Mount Druitt Town". Andy remained part of that committee until his death in 1983.



Steve Knight (Tornadoes) on the prowl. Craig Carlisle is the keeper and John Lembyk is at the alert.

LAUNCESTON CONTESTS BOHEMIAN INVITATION

BY "VAN DIEMEN"

THE 1986 Tasmanian season ended on Sunday with Launceston Croatia winning the Bohemian Restaurant Invitation Cup by virtue of a 4-2 win over Launceston Juventus.

Koch, Craig and Bes-sell (2) were Croatia's marksmen, while Colin Guest, the 1986 Rothmans Gold Medal winner, and Kaitani replied for Juventus.

Southern side Olympia-WPL finished its participation in the series with yet another miserable result, drawing 3-3 with George Town, and that only because of a last minute equalizer from Chris Barrell.

Olympia led George Town 1-0 at the interval through a Craig Nichols goal and appeared to be well on the way to its first victory in the competition when Paul Xanthopoulos scored a second from Perry Forster's cut-back in the 49th minute.

But, George Town, brilliantly led by Liam Monagle in midfield, struck back three times in fifteen minutes mid-

way through the second half to take a 3-2 lead.

Monagle tapped home the first and Conrad Hughes grabbed the other two.

Olympia went very close on several occasions but the equaliser did not come until one minute into injury time when Nichols crossed from the left and Barrell rammed the ball home through a crowded goal-mouth.

In the curtain-raiser, Olympia's Pepsi Youth League side, the State champion, beat George Town's reserve team 5-1.

Andrew Hart hit a hat-trick, with Ken Morton and George Paplos adding a goal each, while Wilson scored George Town's solitary reply.

John Lembyk (Tornadoes) zooms away from Enduro Spartan's Nello Borges.

ILLAWARRA RE-STAFF AND RE-STRUCTURE

BY PHIL MURPHY

THE Illawarra Soccer Association holds its annual meeting on November 16 and there will be two new faces on the council.

Derek Hart, who is also secretary of the judiciary, and Neil Kemp, won't be seeking re-selection.

Spokesman John Walker said he is hoping new blood on the council will bring new ideas to promote the association more.

"The clubs complain about what we do so now is their chance to push for people they feel can improve things," Walker said.

"This meeting will discuss many important aspects of Illawarra Soccer and the structure of our competitions will change," Walker said.

"First division clubs

will be required to have only two teams, rather than three as was the case this year.

"They will field first grade and under 19's with a certain number of senior or over-age players in their under 19 teams."

The Second Division will remain despite criticism of the standard and incidents which have marred games this year.

○ ○ ○

LONG serving player John Lloyd has been named the eighth life member of the Shellharbour Club.

He started playing with the club in 1967 — just a year after Shellharbour was formed — and had a unique ending to his playing career.

He decided to quit

after a serious leg injury earlier this year.

The injury happened when he was scoring a goal. It was his fourth in the game so he went out on a high note.

He will coach reserve grade next season and back up first grade coach Les Sheedy in the motivation department.

Lloyd has been coaching the club's junior teams over recent years and many of the players he helped are now in first and reserve grade.

Spokesman Otto Bader said the club has lost a real "never say die" player but they are confident he will now pass on this attitude to the players he coaches.

"It was a unanimous decision to make John a life member because he has done so much for Shellharbour on and off the field," Bader said.

○ ○ ○

WARRILLA Wanderers won what has become known as "the real Macedonia Cup" when they beat Illawarra Pellister 7-1 in the final at Kembla-warra Oval.

A week earlier, Aris beat South Coast Croatia 2-1 in another Macedonia Cup final.

The first knockout was organised by State League Wollongong Macedonia and they in-

troduced it last season.

Pelister secretary George Stojanovski was upset by that club "stealing" their name. "We have been running the Cup for eight years and they should have used another name if they wanted to run a knockout," Stojanovski said.

It will be interesting to see what happens next season but Pelister certainly came out of their Macedonia Cup well-off financially.

Including the social evening they held on the Saturday between preliminary games and the finals, they raised more than \$4000.



CARLOS AKKARY
Enduro Spartans.

GRANVILLE CHILE SOCCER CLUB

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION III
(Premiers 1986)

WANTED — PLAYERS

1st, 2nd and 3rd grades.

Trials at F.S. Garside Park
Alfred St, Granville

1st Grade Fridays October 24,
October 31, November 7 • 6pm to 7pm
2nd Grade Mondays October 27,
November 3 • 6pm to 7pm
3rd Grade Tuesdays October 28,
November 4 • 6pm to 7pm

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES 637 7099

APIA SOCCER CLUB

1987 ANNUAL YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

To be held at Lambert Park, Marion St, Leichhardt, every Monday and Thursday commencing 16th September.

Trials for U/13 and U/14 every Monday

Trials for U/15 and U/16 every Thursday

All trials to commence sharply at 6pm.

Trials will be held on the following dates:

U/13's & U/14's

U/15's & U/16's

October 13
October 20
October 27

October 16
October 23
October 30



For further information contact either Tony Raciti on 799 4458
(from 11am-10pm) or Vince Aiello on 212 5963 (BH).
Messages can be left on the club's number 799 8997

GRANVILLE CHILE SOCCER CLUB

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION III
(Premiers 1986)

COACHES

for 1987 season
for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades — also an experienced trainer.

Apply in writing with qualifications to:

The Secretary,
1 Onslow St,
Granville 2142

All nominations close 31.10.86

The State League Story

LUKIC LOOKING FOR AUSSIE APPOINTMENT

MILAN LUKIC arrived in Australia earlier this season with fond hopes of continuing his coaching career.

As yet the well-known Yugoslav coach has not been able to cement a position at any club.

Perhaps it is not yet realised just what ability he has available to utilise here.

During his stay in Africa he coached the national side of Nigeria, along with the outstanding first-ever Australian World Cup coach, Tiko Jelisavcic.

The period between 1976 and 1978 was a very active one for him, as Ghana appointed him as its National coach.

The team made its way through to the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Next he moved on to become the national coach of Cameroon.

During the World Cup in 1982 in Spain the side he built but didn't lead there did very well, in fact never losing a game and forcing a 1-1 draw with ultimate champions — Italy.

Over the last few

BY FRANK COLETTA

years Milan Lukic has coached a number of clubs in the Yugoslav Soccer League.

Having played in Australia 15 years ago himself, he has an outstanding background in the local scene.

Lukic is quite impressed with the standard of play in Australia today and says at this stage the game here can be compared favourably to the best in the world.

He has viewed most of the National Soccer League clubs since arriving back here and says they are all very good. He sees the best of them as being Marconi, St. George, Sydney Olympic, Adelaide City and Footscray.

He has also taken time out to praise the Socceroos and their coach Frank Arok, and claims that the Australian Soccer Federation is helping to improve the game and is working to a good system.

Anyone interested in contacting Lukic with a view to discussing a coaching position should phone (02) 728 4839.



Milan Lukic

CLAUDE CELLINI IS HOT PROPERTY

CLAUDE Cellini has been named Illawarra Premier League player of the year and is the most sought after property in Wollongong Soccer.

Cellini played up front with Tarrawanna this year and impressed opposing coaches with his speed, ball control and ability to goals.

Some of these same coaches are keen to sign Cellini but he isn't sure where he will be playing in 1987.

At Tarrawanna all players are amateurs but other ISA clubs are paying out big money — particularly to someone who can score goals.

Cellini said he has had "a few" offers since the end of the competition but won't make his mind up until January.

BY PHIL MURPHY

"I have been thinking about a switch to State League but the travelling doesn't appeal to me at all," he said.

"I had a spell with Wollongong City before going to Tarrawanna but they mucked me around a bit.

"There is still a good chance I will stay at Tarrawanna."

With coach Gary Masters having told the club he won't be applying for the job next season, Cellini is interested to see who gets the job.

WITH the weeks getting away it is becoming important that Wollongong Macedonia and Fairy Meadow announce their

coaches for next season.

Both clubs have advertised their jobs widely but the new boys need to be appointed quickly to see what they have to work with.

Macedonia need a replacement for John Bingham and it has become very obvious there will be new faces in their top team next year.

The trouble is that other clubs have their coaches on the job already picking the players they need.

Secretary Bob Kezovski said the new coach will obviously have to review the lack of goalscoring from last season.

"We defended well but our scoring record was poor from the start," Kezovski said.

"Players who can score goals are very hard to find but we have to do something to improve the situation."

Back in Second Division, Fairy Meadow hope to name their coach at their presentation night on Saturday at Fraternity Bowling Club.

Secretary Walter Chickkan said there have been six applicants.

He said he is confident most of last season's players will stay with the club despite the drop, but experienced campaigners Micky White and Mick Richardson have indicated they will be with Premier League clubs next year.

○○○

STATELEAGUE HOTS UP IN N.S. WALES

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE battle to win the 1987 NSW State League is already well under way.

Leading aspirants Blacktown City and Wollongong City have already pointed to some stirring encounters ahead.

The Demons stepped in to put National Youth coach Les Scheinflug on a three year contract. Wollongong signed John Fleming and at the same time authorised him to fossick out a suitable key player whilst in Britain.

There was no doubt that some Marconi directors wanted Scheinflug to stay, although others were ready to search for a replacement.

No coach in Australia has a better reputation for bringing quality players through the ranks than has Scheinflug.

The way that he has developed the Young Socceroo players is a tremendous credit to him.

It was only justice for him to have been brought back in to handle the coming World Youth Cup campaign.

No doubt the Demons will back up Scheinflug with a highly capable team. As it stands few present players want to leave.

He will not be restricted to selecting players of a particular background.

John Fleming was certainly worth another run at Wollongong.

He no doubt would have had his team in the NSL this year apart from a run of injuries and the absence of two more quality players in his squad.

Actually Wollongong, with matches against clubs such as Wollongong Macedonia, Melita Eagles, Rockdale, Sutherland and Uruguay Auburn on the go, should be in for a magnificent season.



CROATIA — Glenorchy's John McIntyre finished the season with 13 goals — Photo "Van Dieman"

TOPS IN TASSIE



While Eagles' Richard Teszczynski (R), the Cadbury State League's equal top-scorer with 23 goals, is congratulated by club president John Steenhuis (L). Photo "Van Diemen."



VIC TUTTING, ASF long-serving vice-president, hands the Tasmanian Intrastate Trophy to Liam Monagle.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SOCCER CLUB

Inter-Urban Division I

COACHES WANTED

Applications are now being invited from applicants to coach our 1st and 2nd grade squads for the 1987 season.

Please contact:

Mr Ian Hastings

☎ 02 250 8600

or write to:

The Secretary
Sydney University Sports Union
Sydney University
NSW 2006.

GRANVILLE CHILE SOCCER CLUB

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION III
(Premiers 1986)

COACHES

for 1987 season

for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades — also an experienced trainer.

Apply in writing with qualifications to:

The Secretary,
1 Onslow St,
Granville 2142

All nominations close 31.10.86

PARKLEA has more and more become the focus of Soccer coaching in NSW, in addition to being the administration centre. In this picture NSW Soccer Federation treasurer Charles Valentine and Mrs Valentine are shown with NSW Sports Minister Michael Cleary.

PLAYERS CULTIVATE ROSEBUDS JUNIORS

ADAMSTOWN Rosebuds Junior Soccer Club U11 Division A team have just completed a very successful and memorable season under the professional guidance and coaching of English import and Newcastle Rosebud United player, John Cavanah.

The boys finished third in the minor premiership, scoring 45 goals and conceding only nine.

They then went on to beat the minor premiers in the semi-final 1-0 and carried on to win the final 5-1.

The season has been very successful for the junior club, chiefly due to the influence and guidance from the four Newcastle Rosebud United NSL players, who each coached winning premiership teams.

They are John Cavanah, Paul Crabtree, Sean Ingam and John McQuarrie.

They not only evoked greater interest in the boys but also developed their skills to a high standard of play.

The executive and members of the junior club are looking to these teams going on to bigger and better things in the future.

MELITA'S PRIDE

THE Melita Eagles Soccer Club is very proud of its achievements in the just-completed 1986 season. It was a year of hard work for all concerned, committee, coaches, players and supporters, but the final results were a tribute to everyone.

The youth players are the future of Melita as everyone connected with the club realises. Looking at the first grade squad and right down the line, the emphasis on youth has never been as prevalent as this year, and will probably remain so in the future.

The newly introduced Youth Development and Incentive Scheme is another string in Melita's bow. This scheme is designed to encourage the boys of the Youth League to progress through the grades and be rewarded in the interim for doing so.

These awards were handed out at the recently held Presentation Night.

Subsequently the Eagles will be looking for some new players for this side.

Things are certainly on the go at Everly Park.

All at Melita are look-

ing forward to the 1987 season and hope that the same or greater success as in 1986 can be achieved in 1987.



FRONT ROW: John Beasley, Adam Smith, Mark Hawkins, Dean Barsley, Michael William.
MIDDLE ROW: Duncan Scott, Brad Sills, Allan McClusky, Matthew Cooper, Brad Purdy, Ryan Lagerstrom, Sean Griffiths.
BACK ROW: Col McDonald (1986, Team Manager), John Cavanah (Coach).

TOP COUNTRY JUNIOR SIDE



RIVERINA UNDER 14 CHAMPIONS 1986

HERE is the squad which represented Riverina in the NSW State Championships at Parklea.

Of the 17 players there were five NSW country representatives this year. Pictured are:

TOP ROW: Scott Martin (Wagga), Raymond Carty (Albury), Norman Mancuso (Albury), Damien Ruitenberg (Albury), Michael Musitano (Griffith), Giamol Pasin (Griffith), Lawrence Salvestrin (Griffith), Travis Payne (Griffith), Ross Panebianco (Trainer), Ron Calabria (Manager).

FRONT ROW: Jack Belardo (Coach), Mark Panebianco (Griffith), Paul Lemprere (Albury), Paul Lehman (Albury), Anthony Neil (Albury), Paul Aloisi (Griffith), Pat Calabria (Griffith), Frank Piccinin (Griffith), Tony Pangallo (Griffith), Craig Chipman (absent) (Griffith).

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NSW ACADEMY BEGINS TO SHOW POSITIVE RESULTS

DECEMBER sees the start of the NSW Academy of Soccer at Valentine Park, when between 20 and 30 of the top players in the 15-17 years group will start a six-week programme, in three fortnightly spells.

The camps will be two weeks in December, followed by two in January and another two in April, with the last week probably at the AIS in Canberra.

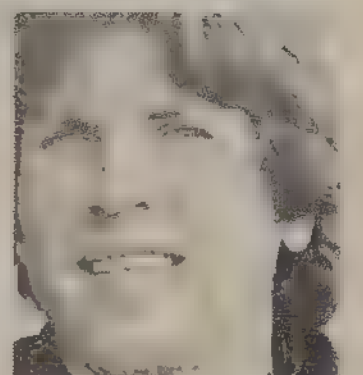
The scheme is part funded by the NSW Government and the NSW Soccer Federation and will cover all aspects of the game.

Together with myself, the camps will have coaches of the calibre of Eddie Thomson, Assistant National Coach, and Willie Wallace, ex-Scottish International, as well as other notables.

It is envisaged that the

scheme will be an ongoing one, and designed to benefit the boys in their Soccer careers.

Accommodation will be in the newly-opened motel block which is attracting more and more residents. Final



Alan Vest,

selection of the first intake will be completed during this month.

TOP IRAQI COACH HERE

IT'S always difficult for coaches to get established in countries other than those of their birth, and when you have no contacts there it's even harder.

Many coaches come to Australia with dubious qualifications but a genuinely qualified coach looking for a club after coming here to settle is Zia Isaac Benjamin, an Iraqi national. He has FIFA and English qualifications, a

degree in physical education and top class club credentials.

His last job was in the Middle East with first division club Al Shabab in the United Arab Emirates and before that he was with first division clubs in Iraq as well as Iraqi National teams.

He speaks fluent English and is prepared to put sessions on for clubs as a guide to his ability.

Any club interested can contact him at lot 7 Tobruk Place, Bossley Park, NSW 2176.

Stephane Jee for U16 Roos & Southampton

LOCAL youngster Stephane Jee is in for a very exciting year's football.

As well as playing in the NSW Youth League, he is in the Australian under 16 squad and has been invited back to train with Southampton in England in January as well.

Already he has played in the Southampton under 15 associate signings team. Against under 18 teams his side reached the final of the last Sotonia Cup and only lost the game in extra time.

Overseas boys in the team were billeted at the University and the final was played at the club's home ground, The Dell.

scout Bob Higgins checks young players from all over Great Britain and very few overseas players are chosen in the final squads.

At school at Christian Brothers Burwood Stephane is completing year 10. He is quite confident that he can blend in his football with his studies.

National Under 16 coach Vic Dalglish has included Stephane in his midfield for the World Youth Tournament games.

He is widely regarded as a player who works hard on his game and has a great ability to iron out his faults as he goes along.

In spite of the Southampton trip, he will work things so that he can represent the Green and Gold.



GLADESVILLE-HORNSBY
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Selection Trials for 1987
NSW YOUTH LEAGUE
and
U/19 STATE LEAGUE

To be held at SANTA ROSA PARK, Bridge Rd., Ryde
Every Sunday in NOVEMBER — the 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

U/16 & U/19	U/14
8.00-9.30am	10.00-11.30am
U/13	U/13
9.00-10.30am	11.00-12.30am

All experienced teenage boys, especially newcomers with good basic skills, are invited to trial. Younger players may trial for the U/11 & U/12 rep teams on February 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd, 1987. Further information from GHFA Rep Convenor MALCOLM ELLIS 80 1561 A.H.

BONDI MARINE SOCCER F.C.

COACH WANTED

NSW STATE LEAGUE DIVISION III

The above Club, which is celebrating its 50th year (1937-1987), is now seeking a coach for next season.

Established 1937 Written applications are now being invited for this position.

The Club this season has achieved:

Club Championship for 1986

First Grade Semi-Finalists

2nd Grade Semi-Finalists • 3rd Grade Finalists

All written applications stating qualifications and experience should be forwarded to:

The Secretary. BONDI MARINE SOCCER F.C.
P.O. Box 103. BONDI JUNCTION. NSW. 2022.

Past players interested in participating in our Club's 50th Year Celebrations, should contact:

The President. Mr Danny Goddard

☎ 02 607 7803

Need a coach or players? Ring
ASW on 660 2033

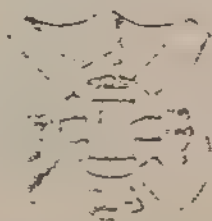
EASTWOOD ST ANDREWS F.C.
COACHES & PLAYERS
WANTED

NSW STATE LEAGUE 4
Inter-Urban First Division

The above Club requires
coaches players for 1987
season.

Please contact:

The Secretary
Mr Gordon Monk
☎ 232 8539 (B)
☎ 852 560 (H)





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HAFFEY STOOPS TO CONQUER AT SYDNEY CITY JUNIORS

Some U/10 A players receiving their trophies from former Scottish International Frank Haffey.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER COACHES FEDERATION (NSW BRANCH)

Coaches are reminded that our Annual General Meeting at PARKLEA, will be held on Friday November 14, at 7.30pm.

Refreshments will be available.

All registered and potential coaches are welcome to come to our meeting.

For further information, please contact ...

Mr Eric Arnell **629 1800** OR

Mr Vince Balzan **642 9376 (B.H.)**

639 1093 (A.H.)



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Central Queensland Academy winner ...

ROCKY'S RIGBY OFF TO ENGLAND

ROCKHAMPTON schoolboy Guy Rigby has won the Central Queensland Soccer Academy scholarship and will spend January polishing the Soccer arts at Southampton.



Young Guy is the first winner under the scheme, which has been actively promoted by Central Queensland Director of Coaching Richard Evans with all local Soccer interests.

He is a shadow member of the Australian Under 16 squad and could gain greatly from the trip.

Richard Evans has

classed him as the first of many footballers from the district who will break through to bigger things.

There are five more youngsters who look the goods and who were involved in the Academy's first year.

It is expected that the number of awards will increase in future.

Winners of trips to Great Keppel Island are: Under 11, John Lindsay, Blubirds; Under 12, Peter Carr, Frenchville; Under 13, Michael Rowland, Parkana; Under 14, Richard Nicol, Parkana; Under 15, Troy Rowland, Parkana.

Rigby said in accepting his air tickets at a Riverside International Motel ceremony that his goal was a professional career.

Training and playing with Southampton's South of England Youth League squad under coach Tony Barton would be a valuable introduction to this fiercely competitive world.

He will literally live, eat and breathe Soccer through January, boarding with Southampton's teenage apprentices and training or playing daily.

Rigby said he had embarked on a strenuous off-season program.

"I plan to hold condition with my sprints sessions under athletics coach Graeme Blossom and fitness and ball training with Richard Evans."

January heralds a busy year for the 15-year-old Glenmore High student, because he awaits a call to join the national Under 16 squad if it should qualify for the World Cup finals in Canada mid-year.

The team plays Oceania quality

matches in Taiwan during December and, if it wins the group, will call Rigby into a training camp for Canada in March.

Soccer Academy director Evans said yesterday: "The Academy has been a success, because many boys attending each week have already improved markedly."

"The four boys who made State teams were all Academy members. And Under 14 player Richard Nicol, after his performances for Rockhampton under 15s in the recent Mackay regional tournament has been earmarked for next year's Queensland Under 15 squad by State coach Peter Kelly."

"There are some of the benefits coming out of the Academy and we hope to attain bigger and better sponsorship next year to boost the number of major scholarships awarded," Evans said.

WE NEED YOU NOW! To give us your junior news, photos, logo's etc. Send to ASW Juniors C/o AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY, P.O. Box 406, Broadway, NSW 2007.

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Tasmania

Fotheringhams, Launceston, Charltons Sports, Launceston.

Queensland

Robinson Sports, Brisbane, Bill Lee Longs, Cairns.

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A GOLF CLUB?

EX-CHELSEA and England defender **RON HARRIS** has fulfilled the dreams of just about every sportsman — and bought himself a golf club.

So what's so strange about that? Well it's not a putter or a five-iron, but Bremhill Park Golf Club five miles from Swindon!

Laughs 42-year-old Ronald: "It cost me slightly more than Chelsea paid for Micky Hazard." That by the way was \$700,000.

And with an annual membership fee of about \$400 Ron can't go wrong.

SOUTH AMERICAN SHORTS

ARGENTINA: ROSARIO CENTRAL and Newell's Old Boys continue their fine run at the top of the League but have been joined by Independiente, also on 18 points after 14 rounds.

Pressure is being applied to all three by Velez Sarsfield and San Lorenzo, both just a point adrift.

URUGUAY: As in Argentina, the Uruguayan League has a triumvirate at the top of the competition. Nacional moved up to join Huracan Buceo and Penarol on 12 points with a 1-0 win over Progreso. The disappointment of the season so far has been Bella Vista, who despite having limited resources, were up near the top of the league early on but have faltered badly to be last now on five points.

PERU: Bolivia beat Uruguay 1-0 and qualified for the final round of the Under 16 South American Championships. Following this will be qualification games for the next Under 16 World Cup in Canada.

ARGENTINA: Argentina defeated Paraguay 2-1 and also qualified for the last round of the South American Under 16 Championships. Three South American countries will be represented in the World Under 16 Championships in Canada.

CHILE: Cobreloa have had their lead wittled down to just two-points following a disappointing 0-0 draw against next to bottom-placed San Luis.

After 17 rounds Cobreloa are on 24 and Palestino are closing rapidly on 22, with Cobresal, Concepcion and Colo Colo all in close attendance.

GRANT TURNER GONE AGAIN!

WHEN New Zealand International — **GRANT TURNER** collided with Wellington goalkeeper Don Finlayson whilst playing for Miramar, he became concussed for the third time recently.

But the gritty All White isn't about to throw away his Soccer career.

"I'm still only 27 and my fitness isn't bad so I hope to be around for a few seasons yet," says Turner.

And the NZder who is in line for the Player of the Year Award isn't about to back out of the tough stuff.

"If there is a pass with a goal on the end of it then I'm not about to pull out. I know it isn't the best to suffer concussions but if I stop being committed I might as well give the game away."

Turner's concussions

— and the on-going ankle injury that began in Spain during the 1982 World Cup finals — cast a question mark over his football at the end of the current season.

But the ankle has responded well to mid-season surgery and has prompted Turner to look at his future in the game.

"I must be the only player not yet offered a contract for next season by Miramar," he said.

"Anyhow, I won't make any decision until the season is over and I see what happens with the touted Hutt Valley national league side.

"And there is always the coaching offer I've

had from Petone although at this stage I've turned it down."

Turner's immediate ambition is to retain his place in the All Whites side.

As one of the senior men in Kevin Fallon's squad, he knows the pressure is on him to continue to perform with his usual commitment.

"I know that in the All White camp the younger players will try and put pressure on the established players with their speed and fitness. All the same, I'm looking forward to playing against Australia if I'm selected."

GOALS OR GUN?!

ARGENTINA goalkeeper Carlos Fernando Navarro of Colombian team Independiente Sante Fe has been fined \$700 for alleging that the League is run by the Mafia.

Navarro insists he was told by two members of Millionarios — the League leaders — to let in a few goals or receive a bullet or two instead.

FORMER Scotland international — **ARCHIE GEMMILL** has linked up with Brian Clough for the third time by joining the coaching staff at Nottingham Forest.

The bearded Gemmill will be remembered for his fine solo goal against Holland for Scotland in the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina.

FIRST BATTLE OVER

MANCHESTER City's new striker Trevor Christie has emerged victorious from a battle which could have ended his Maine Road career before it even started.

The powerful Geordie marksman has completed a bloodless coup and won over the demanding City fans with a three goal burst in The Blues' opening four games of the season.

And that banished his nightmare fears of becoming a target for fans annoyed by the deal which brought him from Derby in exchange for terrace favourite Mark Lillis.

"Mark was a Manchester lad born and bred and I know the City supporters weren't too happy that he left," says Trevor. "He was obviously a big-hearted player who gave everything and it's always difficult to replace someone the fans really liked."

"Obviously when I came they didn't know much about me and

that's why it was important to settle quickly and score a couple of goals early on."

Christie has certainly played his part and rapidly repaid the faith of Maine Road boss Billy McNeill, who put his head on the chopping block when deciding to sell Lillis.

But now it is a matter of keeping up the good work as Man City is now propping up the table.

TRIUMPH

A vital goal in the 3-1 opening day triumph over newly promoted Wimbledon was followed by two more in the 2-2 draw with Norwich in the next home match.

That has firmly established the 27-year-old as the number one striker at the club he nearly

joined two years ago. Then, he was at Notts County pondering whether to move across the River Trent to Brian Clough's Forest or up to Maine Road.

"The terms offered by both clubs were identical but my wife was having a baby at the time and it seemed easier to stay in Nottingham. Going to Forest mean I wouldn't have to move house and uproot the family so I turned City down."

"In hindsight it was a bad decision because things just didn't work out for me. I got on great with Cloughie and I'm a better player today for having worked with him. But their style of play didn't really suit me."

"They play it into the feet and also pump the

ball to the near post but I'm basically a target man who is strong coming in at the far post. Wenn I got the chance to move on to Derby with Arthur Cox I felt it was time to lift my career again."

Even though it meant dropping into the Third Division, Christie knew Derby were big enough and good enough to climb back up.

"I scored 18 goals last season and really enjoyed my football. Derby are geared for the First Division."

"I was looking forward to helping him back into the top flight this season when I got a call from Arthur Cox asking me if I wanted to talk to City. The thrill of playing for Manchester City was too good to turn down."

HUMILATING HERMOSILLO

THE Mexican F.A. has suspended World Cup striker Carlos Hermosillo for 12 games after a pitch-brawl that forced the America v Guadalajara game to be abandoned in the 19th minute.

America were 1-0 up when Hermosillo and World Cup team-mate Quirarte swapped punches. Within seconds all 22 players were at war, leaving referee Rodolfo Marquez no option but to show all of them the red card.

After studying a video of the incident the authorities decided Hermosillo was the villain of the piece, but 19 other players have received lesser suspensions.



FRITZ FUCHS, the toast of Saarland when he guided little FC Homburg to promotion last season, celebrated when his team earned their first Bundesliga point after two defeats, drawing their third game of the season 1-1 at home to Schalke 04.

Imagine his shock when 24 hours later he was summoned to the boardroom ... and sacked. His job goes to Uwe Klimaschefski.

Fernando Quirarte



Action from Chile. Everton against Audax Italiano.

MANUEL Negrete — who can forget his fabulous goal against Bulgaria in the World Cup? — is playing for Sporting Lisbon under special circumstances.

The Mexican star has been granted 'extended leave' by his home club, Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, to lead Lisbon's attack this season.

There must be a few bob changing hands all round!



GARY LINEKER — Barcelona.

RUDI VOLLER, West Germany's most consistent striker, has signed a four-year contract with Werder Bremen, knowing he can break it if he wants!

Bremen will keep Voller on the understanding that if a foreign team makes the right offer, he can go. But they have made one stipulation ... he cannot join another Bundesliga club.

REAPING REWARDS

BARCELONA took no time in reaping rewards for signing British stars Mark Hughes and Gary Lineker. For their pre-season Jean Gamber tournament alone, the Spanish club took \$1,200,000 in gate receipts — and went on to win the trophy by beating Holland's PSV Eindhoven.

LUTON'S BAN

LUTON have become the first League club to ban visiting fans from attending matches at their ground.

It is a brave crusade to help rid football of the hooligan menace.

Luton are the only League club to have the courage to implement a system recommended by the Prime Minister after Brussels.

The F.A. said Margaret Thatcher's idea was unworkable, but Luton have had the courage and the administrative know-how to implement a scheme the other League clubs wouldn't touch.

What have Luton done? They have given genuine fans a plastic "passport" to the ground. Only card-holders are admitted.

It means that families can watch games at Kenilworth Road in complete safety.

It means that residents living close to the ground can do their gardening, clean their windows and wash their cars on match days without fear.

In making Kenilworth Road a No-Go area for visitors, Luton have struck a mighty blow for Soccer Clean-up campaigners.

Let's hope that the less courageous and ambitious clubs will follow Luton's example.

AN ENGLAND CALL UP?

SEEMS like there's no keeping a good man down — especially when he happens to be called Venables.

El Tel, not content with taking Barcelona to the Spanish Championship in his first season with the club, now appears to have laced on his boots again in a bid to gain even more honours — at least if his Press report in the Daily Mail is to be taken at face value.

Could it be that with Bobby Robson having signed a new contract as England manager, Venables feels the best way for him to get in on the England scene is as a player?

After the humiliating defeat at the hands of Sweden, who's to say he won't make it, either.

ENZO ENDS IT

ENZO Bearzot, one of the gentlemen of international football, ended his reign as manager of Italy and it seems to have aided his former golden-boys.

First up they ran roughshod over Greece 2-0, their opponents hardly having a look at the Italian goal.

Bearzot, the genial 59-year-old pipe-smoker, enjoyed a memorable decade in charge, during which time he broke the defensive stranglehold choking the Italian game.

Under Bearzot, Italy never failed to qualify for the World Cup. They revealed a new, attacking style in Argentina in 1978 and emerged from a quiet start to win the trophy in 1982.

Bearzot is now technical director to the national team, Under-21s and Olympic squad. He was succeeded as manager by 53-year-old Azeglio Vicini who has worked for the F.A. for 17 years, during which time he has managed the Under-21s.

IT can only be a matter of days before East Germany sack manager Bernd Stange.

Failure to qualify for the World Cup did nothing for his long-term job prospects. But the recent 1-0 defeat in Finland has virtually sealed his fate.



MUNOZ SAYS NO FOR NOU CAMP

SPANISH manager MIGUEL MUNOZ has stated unequivocally that Spain will not play England in the Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona on February 18 but at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Josep Lluís Núñez, president of Barcelona had offered the Stadium confident in the thought that the appearance of GARY LINEKER would make certain of a full house. He also claimed along the way that the Catalan public would provide more of an atmosphere for the game than their arch-rivals in the Santiago Bernabeu, namely the Real Madrid fans.

ENGLAND have been grouped with Brazil and Uruguay in a tournament designed to decide the World Cup 'champion of champions'.

Brazil, celebrating its 75th footballing anniversary, will host the competition between June 3 and June 11 ... 1989.

The World Cup has been won by six nations since its inception in 1930. The other three, Argentina, Italy and West Germany, will comprise Group A.

The two group winners will meet in a Final on June 11.



The World Scoreboard

ENGLISH Div 1: Charlton 2 Leicester 0, Chelsea 2 Manchester City 1, Liverpool 4 Oxford 0, Manchester United 1 Luton 0, Newcastle 1 Arsenal 2, Norwich 1 West Ham 1, Nottingham Forest 1 Queen's Park Rangers 0, Southampton 0 Everton 2, Tottenham 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1, Watford 4 Aston Villa 2, Playing Today: Coventry v Wimbledon.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts F	11	7	2	2	26	11	23
Norwich	11	6	4	1	19	12	22
Liverpool	11	6	2	3	23	12	20
Tottenham	11	5	4	2	12	8	19
West Ham	11	5	3	3	17	12	18
Everton	11	5	3	3	11	7	18
Arsenal	11	5	3	3	11	7	18
Sheff Wed	11	4	5	2	21	16	17
Coventry	10	4	3	3	9	7	15
Leicester	11	4	3	4	14	15	15
Watford	11	4	3	4	10	13	15
Luton	11	3	5	3	8	14	14
QPR	11	4	2	5	11	14	14
Charlton	11	4	2	5	12	16	14
Southampton	11	4	1	6	22	24	13
Wimbledon	10	4	1	5	12	13	13
Oxford	11	3	4	4	10	20	13
Chelsea	11	3	3	5	13	20	12
Man Utd	11	3	2	6	14	11	11
Aston Villa	11	3	1	7	15	28	10
Newcastle	11	2	2	7	9	20	8
Man City	11	1	4	6	8	13	7

Div 2: Birmingham 4 Crystal Palace 1, Bradford 3 Ipswich 4, Brighton 1 Barnsley 1, Hull 0 Reading 2, Leeds 3 Portsmouth 1, Plymouth 2 Sunderland 4, Sheffield United 0 Huddersfield 0, Shrewsbury 0 Derby 1, Stoke 1 Blackburn 0, West Bromwich 1 Grimsby 1 Oldham 2 Millwall 1.

DIVISION TWO	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oldham	11	6	3	2	17	10	21
Leeds	11	5	2	3	18	11	20
Portsmouth	10	5	2	3	15	9	19
WBA	11	5	3	3	13	11	18
Crystal P	11	6	0	5	14	17	18
Plymouth	10	4	5	1	16	12	17
Ipswich	10	4	4	2	16	14	16
Sunderland	10	4	4	3	9	10	15
Derby	10	4	3	3	9	10	15
Reading	10	4	2	4	20	14	14
Brighton	11	3	5	3	10	8	14
Birmingham	11	3	5	3	16	14	14
Sheff Utd	11	4	2	5	15	14	14
Hull	11	4	2	5	15	14	14
Grimsby	10	3	4	3	10	12	13
Bradford	11	3	3	5	13	17	12
Millwall	11	3	2	6	13	14	11
Stoke	11	3	2	6	8	12	11
Blackburn	10	3	2	6	8	12	11
Shrewsbury	10	3	1	6	8	13	10
Huddersfield	10	2	3	5	9	13	9
Barnsley	11	2	3	6	8	13	9

Div 3: Blackpool 3 Notts County 1, Brentford 3 York 1, Bristol Rovers 0 Port Vale 0, Bury 0 Bournemouth 1, Chester 1 Mansfield 1, Doncaster 0 Darlington 0, Gillingham 1 Carlisle 0, Middlesbrough 3 Walsall 1, Rotherham 1 Bolton 0, Swindon 2 Chesterfield 1, Wigan 2 Fulham 0, Newport v Bristol City, postponed.

DIVISION THREE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	11	7	3	1	22	11	24
Blackpool	11	6	4	1	16	12	22
Bournemouth	10	6	3	1	15	7	21
Gillingham	10	6	3	1	11	4	21
Mansfield	11	5	5	1	14	9	20
Bristol C	10	5	3	2	18	8	18
Notts C	11	5	3	3	21	15	18
Doncaster	11	4	2	5	16	15	17
Swindon	10	5	2	3	17	15	17
York	11	5	1	5	15	19	16
Bristol R	11	4	3	4	14	14	15
Wigan	11	5	0	6	19	21	15
Brentford	11	4	2	5	14	15	14
Port Vale	11	4	4	3	16	13	14
Fulham	11	3	4	4	14	17	13
Bury	11	3	3	5	13	15	12
Newport	9	3	2	4	17	18	11
Chesterfield	11	2	2	7	13	21	11
Darlington	11	2	1	8	11	22	10
Chester	11	2	1	8	11	22	10
Carlisle	11	2	1	8	11	22	10
Bolton	11	2	2	7	17	21	8
Rotherham	11	2	2	7	16	18	8
Walsall	10	1	3	6	14	26	6

Div 4: Burnley 2 Stockport 0.

Hartlepool 1 Peterborough 2, Hereford 1 Exeter 1, Lincoln 1 Rochdale 1, Orient 2 Wrexham 4, Preston 1 Aldershot 2, Southend 3 Crewe 1, Swansea 1 Wolverhampton 0, Cambridge 2 Northampton 3, Colchester 3 Cardiff 1, Halifax 0, Tranmere 0, Scunthorpe 2 Torquay 0.

DIVISION FOUR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northampton	10	8	1	1	25	14	25
Swansea	11	6	2	3	18	11	20
Colchester	11	6	2	3	21	17	20
Wrexham	10	5	3	2	20	12	18
Southend	11	5	3	3	17	12	18
Preston	11	5	3	3	16	15	18
Exeter	11	3	8	0	13	6	17
Tranmere	11	4	4	3	16	13	16
Wolves	11	5	1	5	12	10	16
Orient	11	5	1	5	16	16	16
Cambridge	11	3	6	2	20	15	15
Burnley	11	4	3	4	12	15	15
Crewe	11	3	5	3	19	16	14
Scunthorpe	10	4	2	4	15	13	14
Aldershot	11	4	2	5	17	16	14
Cardiff	11	3	5	3	12	15	14
Hereford	11	3	4	4	12	14	13
Torquay	11	2	6	3	12	16	12
Peterborough	11	2	6	3	12	16	12
Lincoln	11	2	5	4	12	19	11
Rochdale	10	1	6	3	9	14	9
Hartlepool	11	1	5	5	11	18	8
Halifax	11	2	1	8	8	20	7
Stockport	9	1	2	6	3	19	5

SCOTTISH PREMIER: Celtic 3 Motherwell 1, Dundee United 2 Hamilton 1, Hearts 3, Hibernian 1, Aberdeen 1, St Mirren 4 Dundee 1.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	13	10	2	1	29	7	22
Dundee Utd	13	9	3	1	27	9	21
Rangers	13	9	1	3	25	9	19
Hearts	13	7	4	2	16	7	18
Aberdeen	13	5	5	3	22	14	15
Hibernian	13	6	2	5	13	13	14
St Mirren	13	4	4	5	11	13	12
Hibernian	13	3	4	6	14	26	10
Clydebank	13	4	1	8	10	20	9
Motherwell	13	1	6	6	10	24	8
Falkirk	13	1	5	7	10	20	7
Hamilton	13	0	1	12	7	32	1

Div 1: Brechin 2 Queen's Park 1, Dumbarton 2 Airdrieonians 1, Dunfermline 1 Morton 1, East Fife 1, Kilmarnock 3 Forfar 0, Partick 5 Montrose 0.

DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dumbarton	15	10	1	4	29	18	21
Dunfermline	15	8	4	3	21	13	20
Airdrie	15	7	4	4	21	17	18
Morton	15	7	3	5	31	23	17
Q of S	15	7	2	6	22	17	17
East Fife	15	5	6	4	24	22	16
Kilmarnock	15	5	4	6	24	20	14
Forfar	15	4	5	6	23	27	14
Partick	15	3	6	6	17	21	12
Clyde	15	3	4	8	13	19	12
Brechin	15	4	2	9	16	29	10
Montrose	15	2	5	8	15	27	9

Div 2: Albion 1 Stranraer 1, Alloa 2 Raith 2, Arbroath 0 Strirling 1, Cowdenbeath 3, Ayr 1, Midwaybank 1, East Stirling 0, Queen's Park 0 Stenhousemuir 0, St Johnstone 3 Berwick 2.

DIVISION TWO	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Meadowbank	11	8	2	1	22	4	18
Alloa	11	8	2	1	22	16	18
Raith	11	5	6	0	23	10	16
Strirling	11	6	3	2	12	4	15
Albion	11	7	1	3	19	17	15
Ayr	11	5	3	3	14	16	14
Stranraer	11	3	6	2	14	10	12
St Johnstone	11	3	4	4	16	20	10
Queens Pk	11	2	5	4	14	15	9
Cowdenbeath	11	3	2	6	10	15	8
Stenhousemuir	11	2	2	7	10	16	6
Berwick	11	1	4	6	12	19	6
Arbroath	11	1	2	8	9	22	4
Stirling	11	0	4	7	7	20	4

NORTHERN IRELAND: Ards 1 Glentworth 1, Ballymena 1 Larne 1, Carrick 1, Glenavon 4, Crusaders 2, Distillery 2, Linfield 2, Coleraine 1, Newry 0 Cliftonville 1, Portadown 0 Bangor 2.

PORTUGAL: Portimonense 1 Varzim 0, Sporting 2 Braga 1.

FRANCE: Laval 2 b Lille 1.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bordeaux	13	8	4	1	18	6	20
Marseille	13	6	6	1	18	9	18
Paris SG	13	6	4	3	12	9	16
Toulouse	13	5	5	3	19	9	15
Auxerre	13	4	7	2	14	10	15
Nantes	13	6	3	4	16	13	15
Monaco	13	5	4	4	14	12	14
Sochaux	13	5	4	4	15	16	14
Nice	13	5	4	4	11	12	14
Metz	13	3	7	3	14	8	13
Lille	13	4	5	4	17	14	13
Le Havre	13	4	5	4	15	14	13
Lens	13	4	5	4	16	17	13
Laval	13	2	8	3	7	12	12
St Etienne	13	2	7	4	10	12	11
Brest	13	3	5	5	12	17	11
Rennes	13	3	3	7	8	16	9
RC Paris	13	3	3	7	10	21	9
Nancy	13	3	3	7	9	17	9
Toulon	13	1	5	7	10	21	7

SPAIN: Real Madrid 3 Majorca 0, Ath Bilbao 4 Sabadell 2, Betis 3 Saragossa 2.

WEST GERMANY: Bayer Leverkusen 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Borussia Dortmund 2 Nuremberg 2, Homburg 0 Werder Bremen 1, Fortuna Düsseldorf 0, Cologne 0, Schalke 1 Hamburg 1, Stuttgart 1 Kaiserslautern 1, Bayer Uerdingen 1, Borussia Mönchengladbach 1, Blau-Weiss Berlin 1 Bayern Munich 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Munich	11	6	5	0	22	10	17
B Leverkusen	11	7	1	3	25	10	15
Hamburg	11	6	3	2	20	10	15
W Bremen	11	6	3	2	21	17	15
Stuttgart	11	4	5	2	18	11	13
K'slautern	11	4	5	2	18	12	13
B Uerdingen	11	4	4	3	16	14	12
Bochum	11	3	6	2	1		
Schalke	11	5	2	4	21	23	12
B Dortmund	11	4	3	4	25	15	11
E Frankfurt	11	2	6	3	13	13	10
Cologne	11	4	2	5	16	17	10
W M'Heim	11	3	4	4	16	19	10
B M'bach	11	2	5	4	16	17	9
Nuremberg	11	1	5	5	14	21	7
Homburg	11	2	2	6	8	24	6
11	11	1	7	3	1		

OUT OF TOWN

ONE-TIME glamour club — Ipswich Town are in deep trouble.

They are so broke that players have offered to take their own sandwiches on away trips to help cut expenses.

A few seasons ago, when Ipswich were chasing First Division honours and lifting the UEFA Cup, a crisis at the hospitable Suffolk club was defined as: "There's not enough chilled white wine in the fridge of the boardroom."

Now things have taken a desperate turn for the worse as they struggle on gates of around 6,000 in the second division when the figure needed to break even is 13,000.

Skipper Ian Atkins says: "The lads say they will take their own sandwiches on away trips to cut the cost of meals at hotels."

"We also told the club that we wouldn't be claiming our win bonus

from the victory over Plymouth and the chairman says that saved \$3,200."

Manager Bobby Ferguson, who took over from Bobby Robson when he became England boss, says: "The lads said they would play for nothing for this club and they have proved it."



Out of Town — PAUL MARINER.

"We are on the breadline and unless

crowds increase we will be in serious trouble by the end of the season."

Ipswich's financial problems stem back to 1978 when they won the FA Cup and decided to build a \$2m stand the year after that.

But after selling several big-name players in an effort to balance the books they were relegated last season — and things have gone worse since then.

In fact many are quick to point out the downward slide of Ipswich began when Ferguson replaced Robson and so much of the departed players have voiced their disapproval of the former's handling of the club.

The most notable being Eric Gates and Kevin O'Callaghan. Of the glory winning team of the late 70's and early 80's, only the ever-reliable long-serving goalkeeper — Paul Cooper remains.



Ipswich Glory Days — 1978. Mick Mills (left) and Roger Osborne (right) with the FA Cup.

MARK'S LEG IS (W)RIGHT

AFTER five months of mental and physical pain, MARK WRIGHT is back in football.

Approaching half-time on Saturday, April 5, Wright's world was his oyster. Southampton was matching Liverpool all the way in a thrilling F.A. Cup semi-final at White Hart Lane. Wembley beckoned and the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico seemed assured of the young defender's presence.

But before the game was over, Wright was in hospital, his right leg snapped in two below the knee after an accidental collision with Saints and England team-mate Peter Shilton.

Soton were beaten and his World Cup dream was over.

"It has taken some doing," says Wright. "But I have actually put the whole business behind me. The pain has gone; the disappointment and the black moods. Only the future matters."

"I have come through an ordeal that confronts a lot of professional sportsmen and learnt from it."

"When the specialist had his last check on my leg and told me to crack on with training, I felt as if I'd won the pools."

"Now I have a lot of catching up to do. In this game you can be forgotten in the time I've been sidelined."

It was England manager Bobby Robson who completed the healing process for the player who admits: "It was hard to watch the World Cup. It hurt knowing I might have been there with boys. I was gutted when things didn't go right early and felt like dancing when they started winning."

With the European Championships coming up, 23-year-old Wright needed some kind of encouragement to show him he was not forgot-

ten. It was Robson who provided it.

"My phone rang and I was stunned to hear the manager on the other end. He was marvellous. He told me to keep my spirits up, that I was not out of his plans and that I had great things ahead of me."

After two months with plaster to his hip, one month with plaster up to the knee and a fourth month with a special support to help him walk, Wright started light exercises to build up some muscle on the leg.

"You start to waste away from day one. The knee hurt, the ankle hurt and as for the break! It takes teeth-gritting to make that start. But you make it," says the big defender.

Saints will certainly be better off when Wright finally reaches the fitness required for the First Division.

AMBUSH FOR RAMBO?

WATFORD manager Graham Taylor is planning a transfer swoop for the powerful striker who rejoices in the nickname Rambo!

Taylor has watched Celtic's Alan McNally twice this season and is now considering following up his initial interest with a six-figure bid for the player.

McNally, known as Rambo after the Sylvester Stallone movie character, was in the spotlight against Rangers when he came on as

a second-half substitute and again against Aberdeen in the Skol Cup quarter-final tie three days later.

He missed out on the goals in those games but while Taylor returned to Vicarage Road to see his team beaten 1-0 by Wimbledon, McNally was running riot against Hamilton at Parkhead.

He fired in a first half hat-trick, the season's first in the Premier Division.

But will Celtic want to part with the striker who cost them \$200,000 from Ayr United three seasons ago?

McNally, who started five League games last season and scored once, first impressed Taylor

against Arsenal during David O'Leary's testimonial at Highbury last month.

'Rambo' made the most of that rare first team appearance to scoring a scintillating solo goal, racing 50 yards before beating keeper John Lukic with an angled drive.

DIXON DONE IN ONCE AGAIN . . .

KERRY DIXON was probably more upset by England's 1-0 defeat in Sweden than any of his team mates.

The England lads were in a dark mood, disappointed by their own failings.

But the 25-year-old Chelsea striker knew that, as usual, his name would figure high on the list of those to be blamed, to be closely scrutinised and to be threatened with the axe.

Despite four goals in his first three internationals, Dixon must live with the sense of insecurity, born of Bobby Robson's admitted 'reservation' about his international pedigree.

"I had one chance against Sweden," says Dixon. "The 'keeper saved it in the dying minutes. If that had given us an equaliser would I have been the hero?"

The real question is, why does Robson choose a comparative England novice to pressure? His eight caps include only five full games. In one game he was given five minutes. This was his only contribution to the World Cup, and it was against Poland.

STANDARDS

Why not tell Ray Wilkins, Glenn Hoddle and John Barnes, who between them hold 150 caps, that they must prove they are up to the international standards required for the European Championship?

Dixon's agony, at club and England levels, is that too many people still doubt him, despite a superb record.

"On League goals alone, I scored 51 in 116 games for Reading. At the present time I have 68 in 126 games for Chelsea," he says.

"I heard the critics early in the season. Chelsea made a quiet start and I did not score until the fifth game, at home to Luton."

"But I scored only one goal in my first seven games for Chelsea two seasons ago and finished up with 35 in all competitions."

"Last season I didn't hit the net in our first five games but finished top scorer again."

"If I get three or four chances in a game I reckon I will score a goal. Of course I miss chances, name me a top striker who doesn't?"

Dixon refuses to comment on the common

belief that he stands at the back of the international queue, behind Mark Hateley, Gary Lineker, John Barnes and Peter Beardsley.

Nor will he be drawn on the criticisms that clearly do hurt him.

But this very reluctance to complain in no wise wipes away the fact that — Dixon is getting a raw deal!

He does not possess the overall skills of Lineker; is not to be compared with Barnes or Beardsley because they are a different type of player.

SCORING

But given the same number of games as Hateley — 21 for England to date — Dixon would return a higher scoring rate.

He is an orthodox striker, a centre forward. He is strong, brave, good in the air and is comfortable striking the ball with either foot.

His control, however, is not the best. But with the right service he could solve England's problem up front.

Some of England's most successful strikers took about ten internationals to find their feet. Dixon has played just five full games. He looked unfit against Israel and was unsupported against Sweden.

The odds are that he will do his usual trick between now and May — score between 25 and 30 goals in all competitions. He will also miss good chances, play badly a few times and in short, experience the kind of season familiar to every striker in the football world.

What we hope is that Bobby Robson keeps faith with Chelsea's blond bomber. With the right kind of run in the team and the correct service Kerry Dixon could be a European Championship star.

The challenge of one game at Old Trafford demonstrates just the kind of occasion that Dixon thoroughly enjoys.

"I went there last season in a run of 11 games without a goal. United were third and chasing the title."

"We beat them 2-1 and I scored both goals."

That's the form I'm always looking for.

"On the England scene, I am proud to be involved and can only do my best for Chelsea, keep scoring goals and hope that Mr Robson selects me."

Lesser players than Kerry Dixon have represented England on a regular basis without enduring the kind of subtle pressure he is suffering. It is time to give the player a run, then judge

him. "As any player would say, I aim to prove my critics wrong," Kerry says.

Away from Chelsea, a number of club managers eye Dixon closely.

It is no secret that Arsenal admire his bustling, positive style and that Spurs, who rejected him as a young hopeful, would pay a very handsome transfer fee to bring him back.

Critics beware!



KERRY DIXON

OUTSIDE?

HAVE a close look at the 'keepers when you next see a game. It's a fair bet they will carry the ball outside the penalty area when kicking the ball up field.



MARTIN HODGE

There's been several top 'keepers doing this during a match this season and not one has been penalised.

Perhaps linesmen are too busy counting the number of steps 'keepers take to notice if they stray outside their areas.

You might also notice 'keepers taking free-kicks in their own half.

Wimbledon's Dave Beasant, Sheffield Wednesday's Martin Hodge (left) and Liverpool's Mike Hooper have all taken deadball kicks this season.

They certainly put added pressure on the opposition with their big punts.